PEOPLE WITH TOO MUCH TIME ON THEIR HANDS TEND TO BE NOSY ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS
HEY, HANA
.....
WHY DID ONEE-CHAN AGREE TO MARRY THAT HINOYAMA GUY?
I KNEW IT
LOOKS LIKE ARARE-CHAN HAS TOO MUCH FREE TIME RIGHT NOW.
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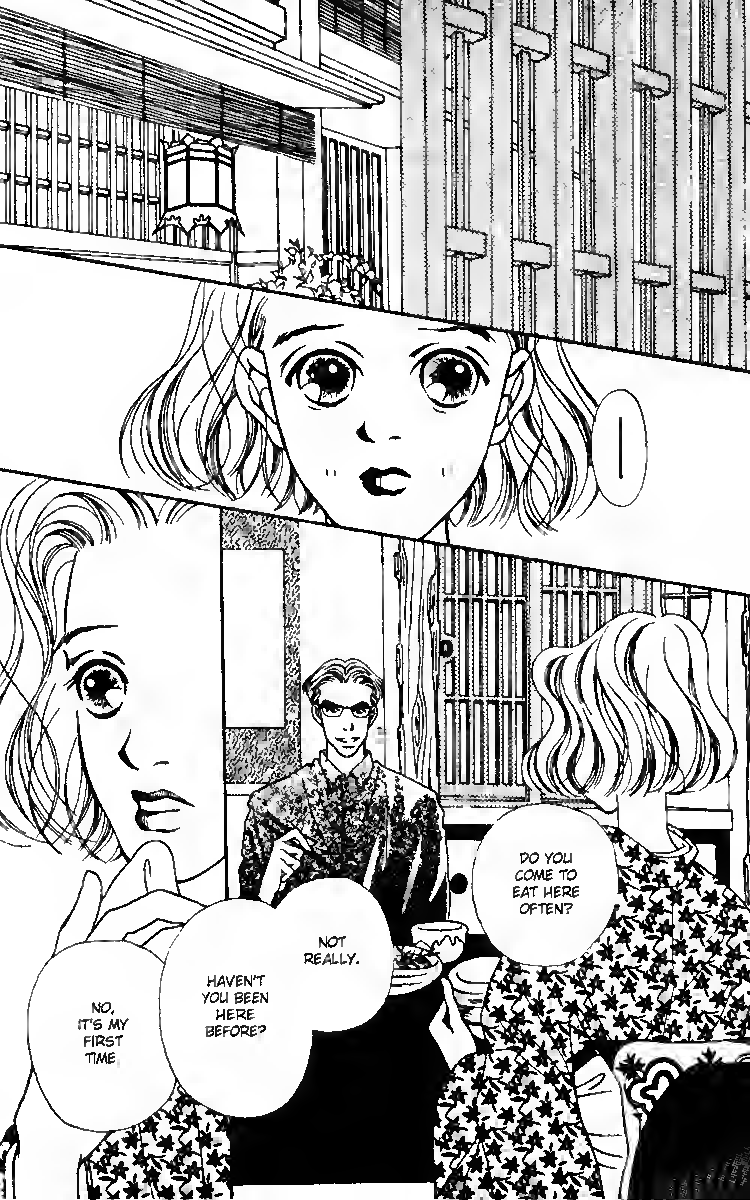
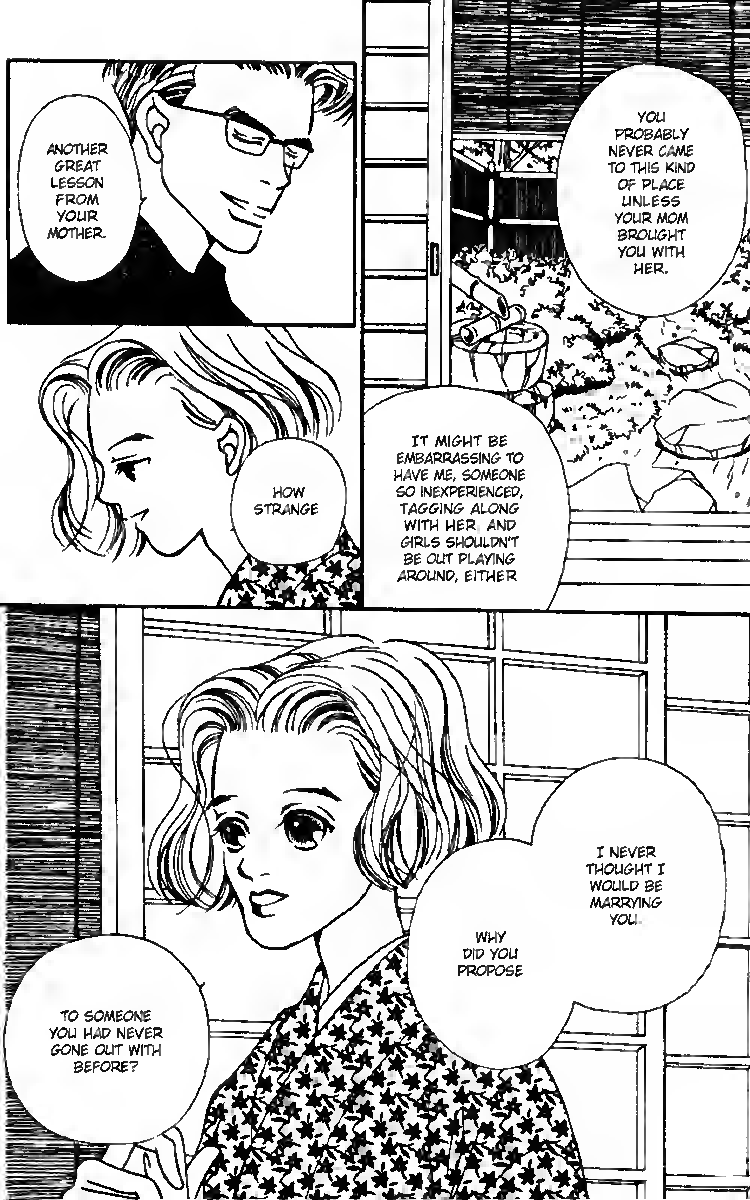
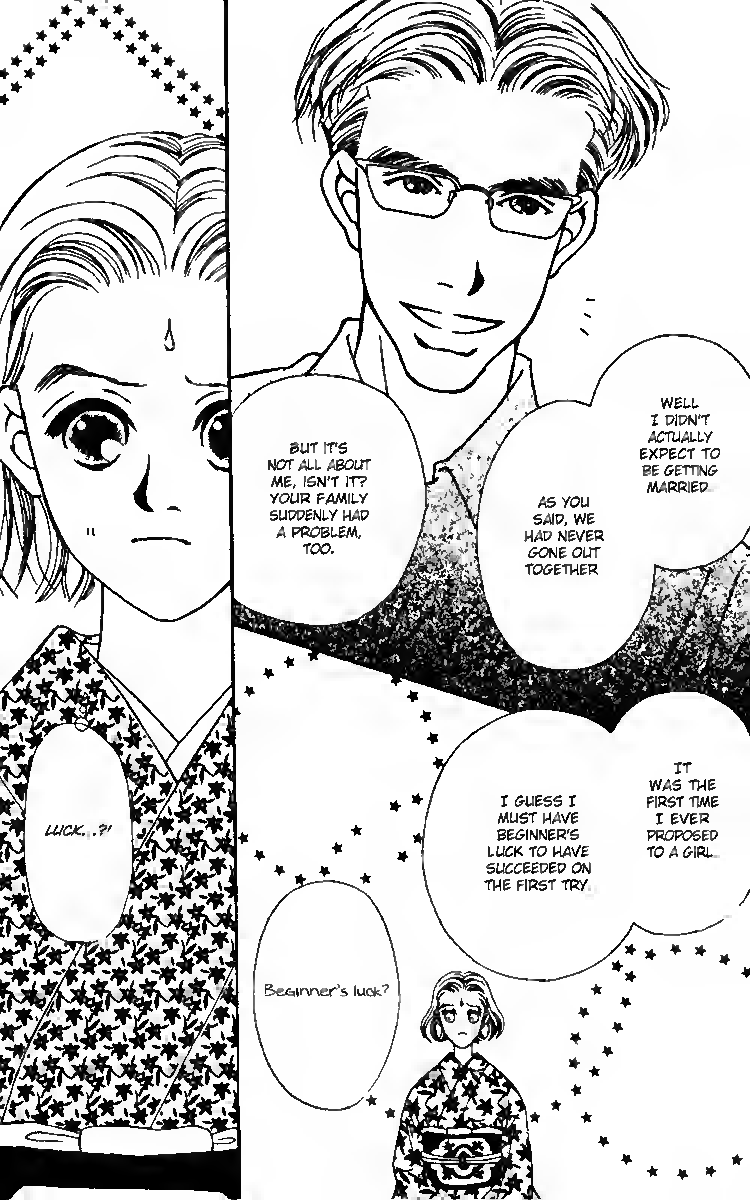
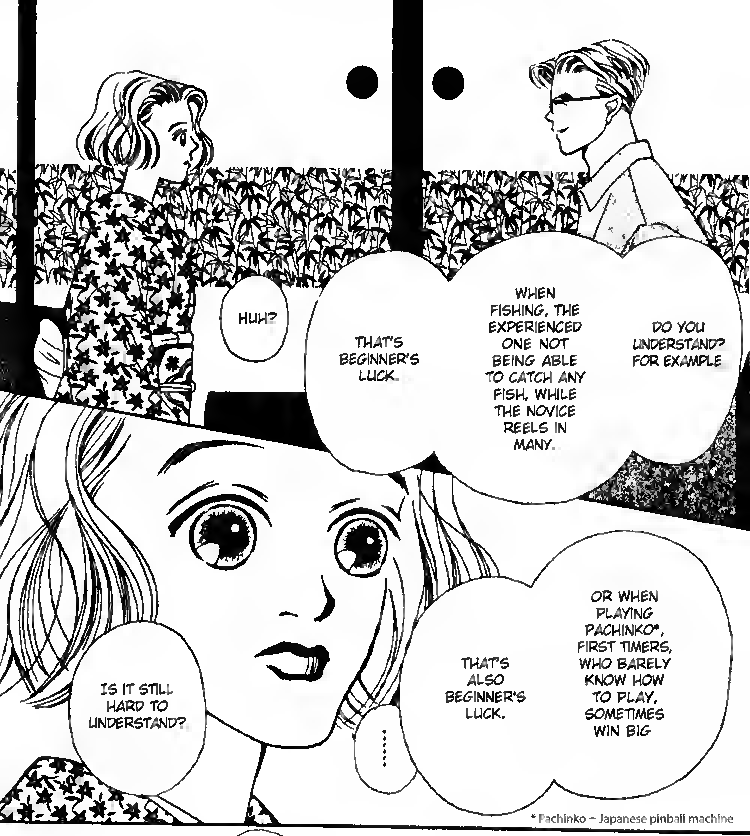

I
DO YOU COME TO EAT HERE OFTEN?
NOT REALLY.
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN HERE BEFORE?
NO, IT'S MY FIRST TIME.

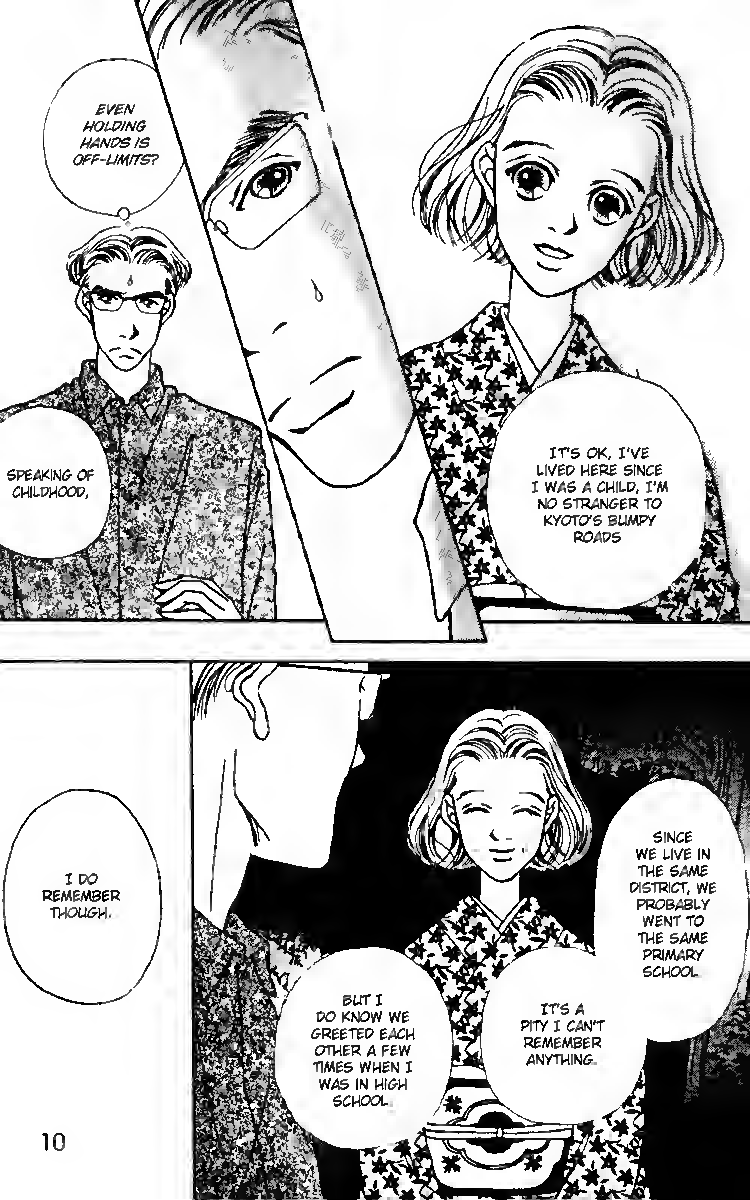

ANOTHER GREAT LESSON FROM YOUR MOTHER.
YOU PROBABLY NEVER CAME TO THIS KIND OF PLACE UNLESS YOUR MOM BROUGHT YOU WITH HER.
HOW STRANGE
IT MIGHT BE EMBARRASSING TO HAVE ME, SOMEONE SO INEXPERIENCED, TAGGING ALONG WITH HER. AND GIRLS SHOULDN'T BE OUT PLAYING AROUND, EITHER
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD BE MARRYING YOU.
WHY DID YOU PROPOSE
TO SOMEONE YOU HAD NEVER GONE OUT WITH BEFORE?


WELL I DIDN'T ACTUALLY EXPECT TO BE GETTING MARRIED
AS YOU SAID, WE HAD NEVER GONE OUT TOGETHER
BUT IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT ME, ISN'T IT? YOUR FAMILY SUDDENLY HAD A PROBLEM, TOO.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER PROPOSED TO A GIRL.
I GUESS I MUST HAVE BEGINNER'S LUCK TO HAVE SUCCEEDED ON THE FIRST TRY.
Beginner's luck?
LUCK...?!


HUH?
THAT'S BEGINNER'S LUCK.
WHEN FISHING, THE EXPERIENCED ONE NOT BEING ABLE TO CATCH ANY FISH, WHILE THE NOVICE REELS IN MANY.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? FOR EXAMPLE
IS IT STILL HARD TO UNDERSTAND?
.....
THAT'S ALSO BEGINNER'S LUCK.
OR WHEN PLAYING PACHINKO*, FIRST TIMERS, WHO BARELY KNOW HOW TO PLAY, SOMETIMES WIN BIG

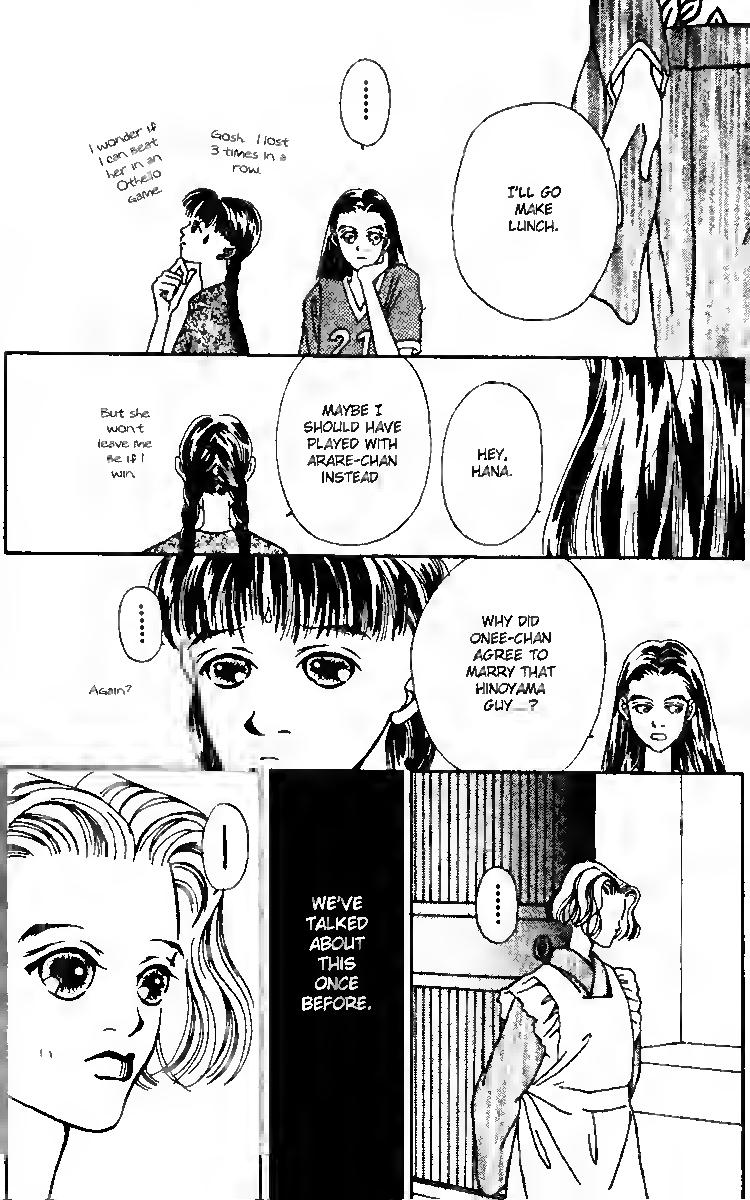
* Pachinko – Japanese pinball machine

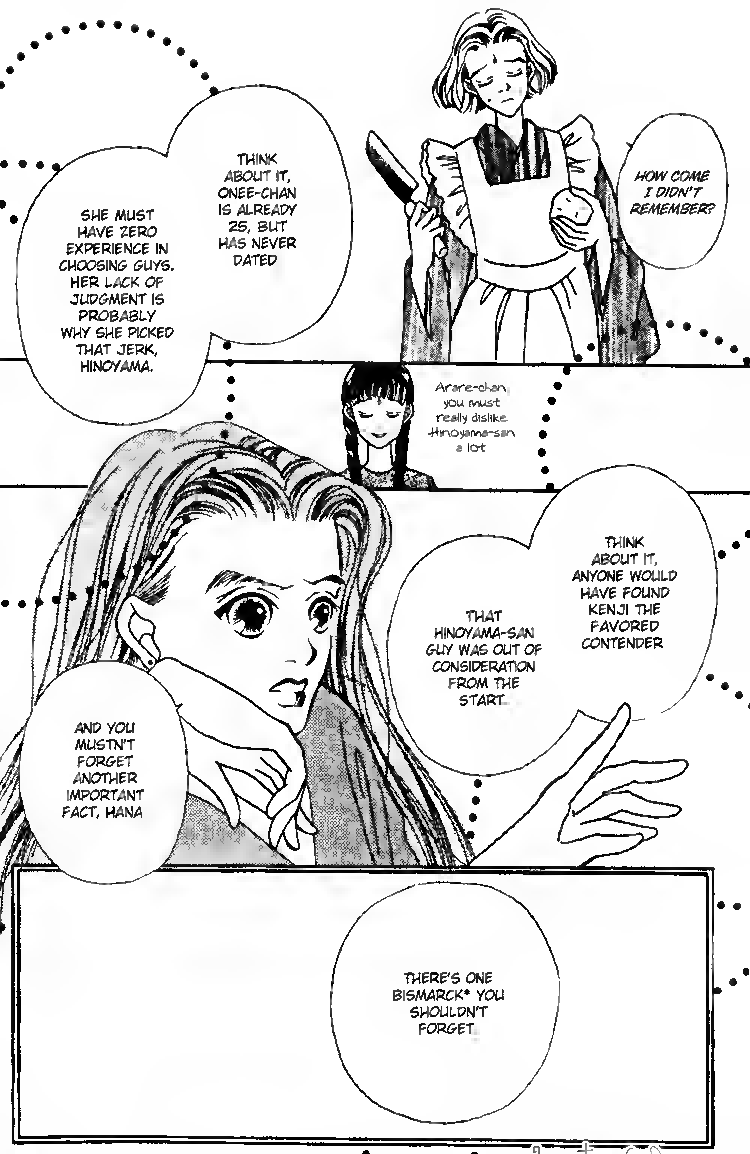
AH, IT'S DARK.
BE CAREFUL.
THEY'RE FIXING THE ROAD AROUND HERE.
EH?
IT MUST BE DIFFICULT TO WALK IN A KIMONO
UHM.
.....


EVEN HOLDING HANDS IS OFF-LIMITS?
SPEAKING OF CHILDHOOD,
IT'S OK, I'VE LIVED HERE SINCE I WAS A CHILD, I'M NO STRANGER TO KYOTO'S BUMPY ROADS
I DO REMEMBER THOUGH.
BUT I DO KNOW WE GREETED EACH OTHER A FEW TIMES WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.
IT'S A PITY I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
SINCE WE LIVE IN THE SAME DISTRICT, WE PROBABLY WENT TO THE SAME PRIMARY SCHOOL.

YOU HAD LONG CURLY HAIR
WHICH YOU WORE DOWN YOUR BACK.
YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER, BUT WE TALKED ONCE BEFORE.
YOU WERE VERY YOUNG BACK THEN.
I...
INTERCEPT

CLOSE
~~~~~
BLOCK
SORRY
WON'T YOU GO EASY ON ME FOR ONCE?
NO... I LOST AGAIN?
NO HANA, THAT'S HOW IT IS IN THIS WORLD OF COMPETITION.
IF YOU GO EASY ONCE, ALL YOUR HARD WORK WILL BE IN VAIN.
~~~~~


I'll go make lunch.
.....
Gosh. I lost 3 times in a row.
I wonder if I can beat her in an Othello game.
Hey, Hana.
Maybe I should have played with Arare-chan instead
But she won't leave me be if I win.
Why did Onee-chan agree to marry that Hinoyama guy...?
.....
Again?
.....
We've talked about this once before.
I


HOW COME I DIDN'T REMEMBER?
THINK ABOUT IT, ONEE-CHAN IS ALREADY 25, BUT HAS NEVER DATED
SHE MUST HAVE ZERO EXPERIENCE IN CHOOSING GUYS. HER LACK OF JUDGMENT IS PROBABLY WHY SHE PICKED THAT JERK, HINOYAMA.
Arare-chan, you must really dislike Hinoyama-san a lot
THINK ABOUT IT, ANYONE WOULD HAVE FOUND KENJI THE FAVORED CONTENDER
THAT HINOYAMA-SAN GUY WAS OUT OF CONSIDERATION FROM THE START.
AND YOU MUSTN'T FORGET ANOTHER IMPORTANT FACT, HANA
THERE'S ONE BISMARCK* YOU SHOULDN'T FORGET.

T/N: A gambling term used in horse racing
A horse that is favored but not necessarily expected to win the race.

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HUH...?
WELCOME.
EXCUSE ME.
GOOD MORNING.
OH, SHOUJUROU-SAN!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, I SEE YOU'RE DOING WELL

AWW, YOU'RE WELCOME AT ANY TIME.
AND RUSH HERE STRAIGHT AWAY.
WHENEVER I COME TO KYOTO, I THINK OF THIS SHOP'S WAGASHI.
YES.
I AM. SINCE THAT EVENT, WASN'T IT? ARE YOU HERE TO OPEN ANOTHER PERFORMANCE?
HM? OH...
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SWEET TALK ONEE-CHAN.
BUT SHOUJIROU-SAN ONLY COMES HERE TO BUY WAGASHI.
ERM...
HINA, RIGHT?

P-LEASE, HANA THEN WHY DO YOU THINK HE ALWAYS ASKS FOR ONEE-CHAN?
ABOUT THAT...
ANYONE WITH EYES WOULD KNOW THAT HE'S REALLY HERE TO SEE ONEE-CHAN
Buying wagashi is just an excuse!
HINA, SHOUJUROU-SAN IS HERE...
See? He's here for her
SHOUJUROU-SAN, ARE YOU HERE TO BUY WAGASHI OR TO MEET HINA?
UHH...
HELLO.
HELLO.

Are you planning to make your little sister support you?
With her height she could be a model. The money's good.
HEH HEH
OH, YOU'VE GROWN. YOU GET TALLER EVERY TIME I SEE YOU
HELLO
HELLO
SHOUJUROU-SAN IS A KABUKI ACTOR AND THE SON OF ICHIOKA JULITA, THE 8TH SUCCESSOR OF THE KABUKI STAGE*
HE PARTICIPATES IN VARIOUS OTHER ARTS OFF STAGE. HIS GENTLE SMILE AND DEMEANOR HAVE CAPTURED THE HEART OF MANY A FEMALE FAN.
*Kabuki is the highly stylized classical Japanese dance-drama
ISN'T THAT SO?
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU THREE SISTERS DON'T LOOK MUCH ALIKE.

Stop it you two
You don't have to put on a show like that
LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER.
LUCKY ME, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T RESEMBLE OUR MOTHER.
ONLY MY MIDDLE CHILD TOOK AFTER HER FATHER
NO, I THINK YOU'RE VERY MUCH ALIKE.
YOU BOTH GIVE ME A TRUE SENSE OF THE KYOTO BEAUTY
WOW
COME ON, I CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT
Not only do you look alike but the way you speak couldn't be more identical. You make a truly fearsome mother and daughter
AS HE WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT
GOOD THING HE WASN'T HINOYAMA-SAN,
OH... I HOPE I DIDN'T MAKE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE BY SAYING IT SO BLUNTLY

HINA, PLEASE SEE SHOUJUROU-SAN ON HIS WAY.
YES.
SIGH... IF SHE REALLY HAD TO MARRY OUT, THEN SHOUJUROU-SAN WOULD HAVE BEEN A FAR BETTER CHOICE.
ARARE HANA, PREPARE LUNCH AND TEND TO THE SHOP
Hana Okay?
DASH
WE'RE LEAVING IT TO YOU.
THOSE BRATS!

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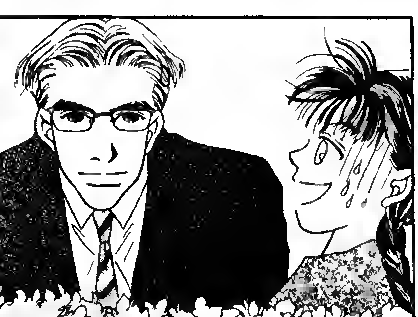
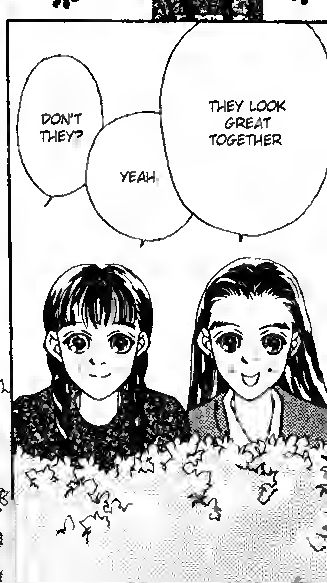




TICK
ISN'T THAT ICHIOKA SHOUJIROU-SAN? THE FUKUYAS SURE KNOW A LOT OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE
I HAVE TO GO...
EXCUSE ME
GULP
SPYING ON OTHERS ISN'T A GOOD HABIT, YOU KNOW...
YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED?
YES, NEXT YEAR.
HOW COME I HAVEN'T HEARD YOU MENTION ANYTHING BEFORE?

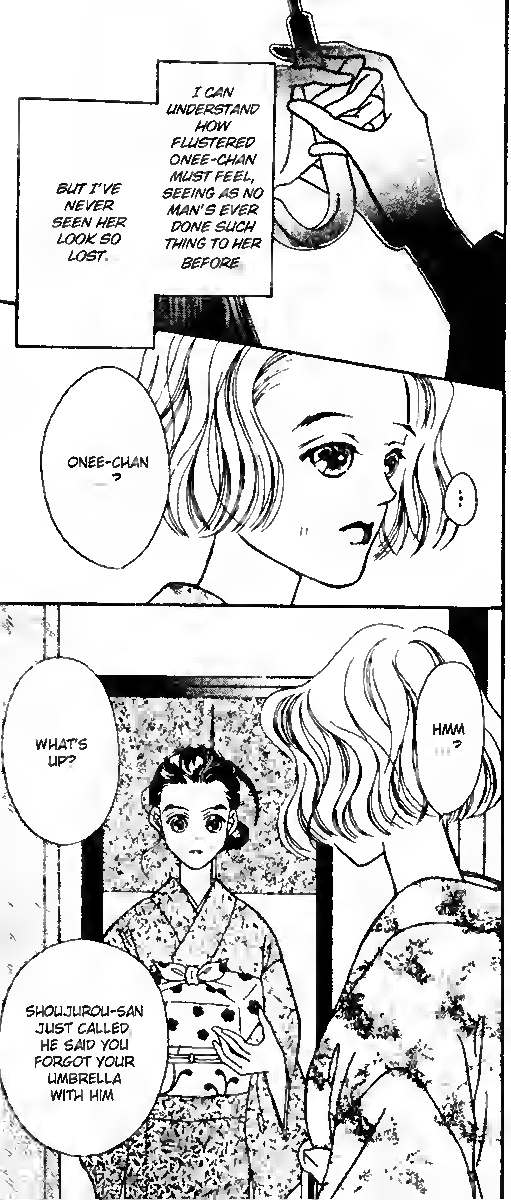
I'M MARRYING HIS GRANDSON.
DO YOU KNOW HINOYAMA-SAN OF GION? HE'S ALSO A BENEFACTOR OF KABUKI ART.
MY SISTER WILL TAKE OVER INSTEAD.
WHAT ABOUT THE SHOP?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE SUCCESSOR.
NOTHING. THE SUN MUST BE TOO BRIGHT.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
HOLD ON.
W...IT ...

SHOUJU-ROUSAN...
HINA-SAN
HINA-SAN
I'VE KNOWN YOUR FAMILY FOR A LONG TIME IF I HAD KNOWN...
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO PROPOSED FIRST PLEASE MARRY ME.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU
LET ME GO!
HINA-SAN!
PLEASE LET ME GO!

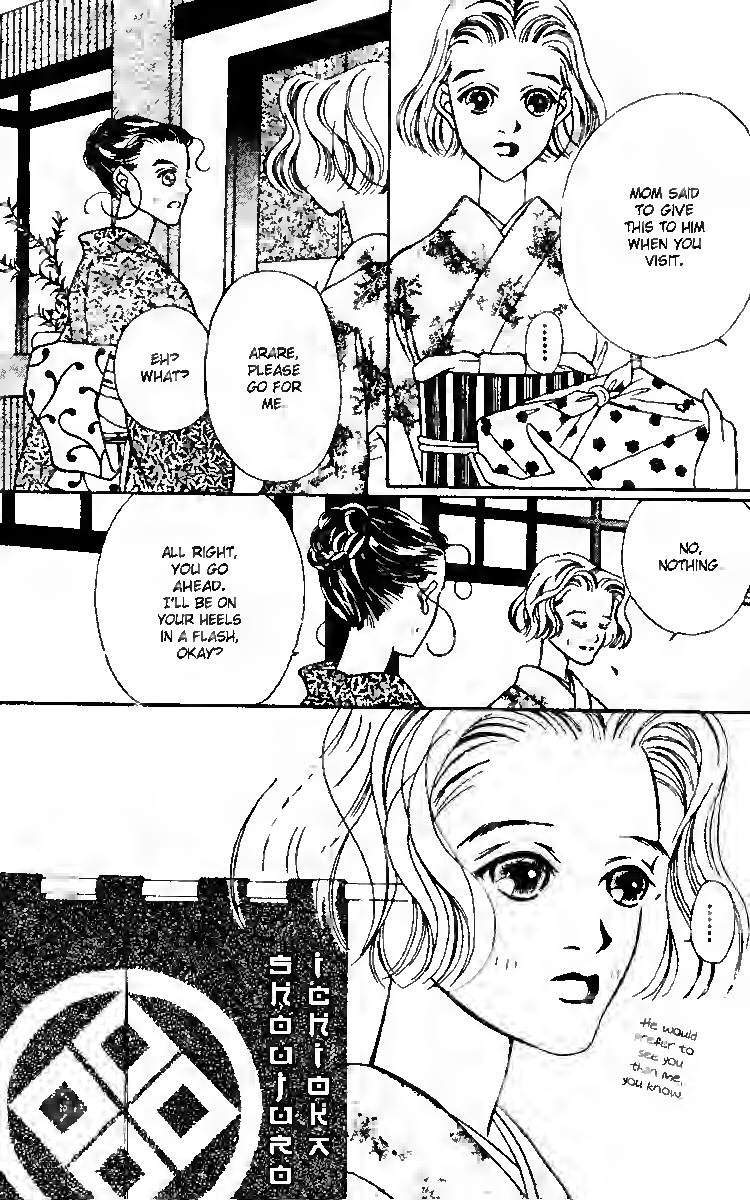
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU
...
!
HANA
...

IF YOU GO EASY ONCE,
ALL YOUR HARD WORK...
...WILL BE IN VAIN...


I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW FLUSTERED ONEE-CHAN MUST FEEL, SEEING AS NO MAN'S EVER DONE SUCH THING TO HER BEFORE
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HER LOOK SO LOST.
ONEE-CHAN ...?
WHAT'S UP?
HMM ...?
SHOUJUROU-SAN JUST CALLED HE SAID YOU FORGOT YOUR UMBRELLA WITH HIM

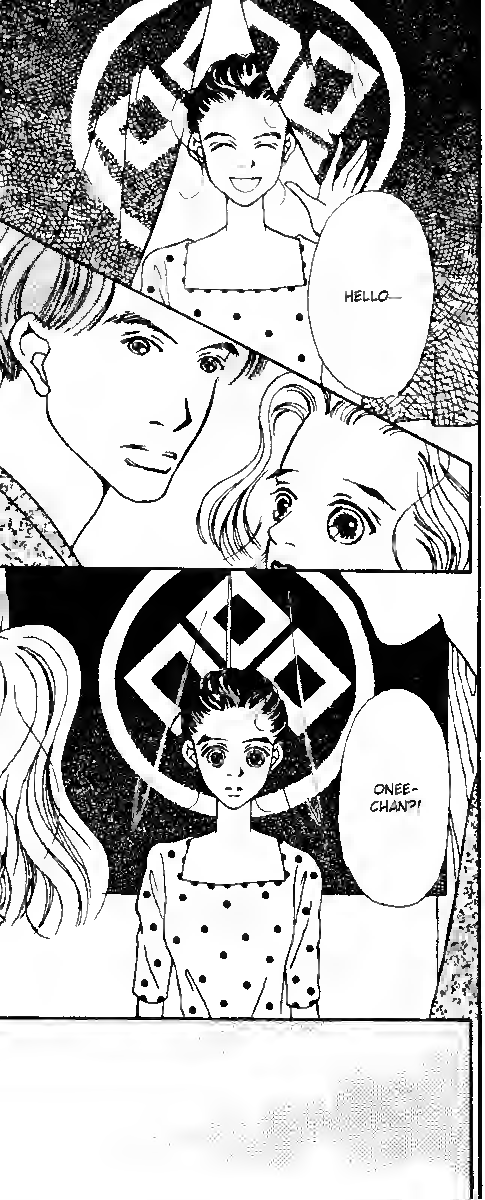
POOR ONEE-CHAN...

SHE'S ALREADY AGREED TO MARRY HINOYAMA-SAN. IT MUST BE HARD FOR HER TO GO BACK AND RETHINK HER DECISION.

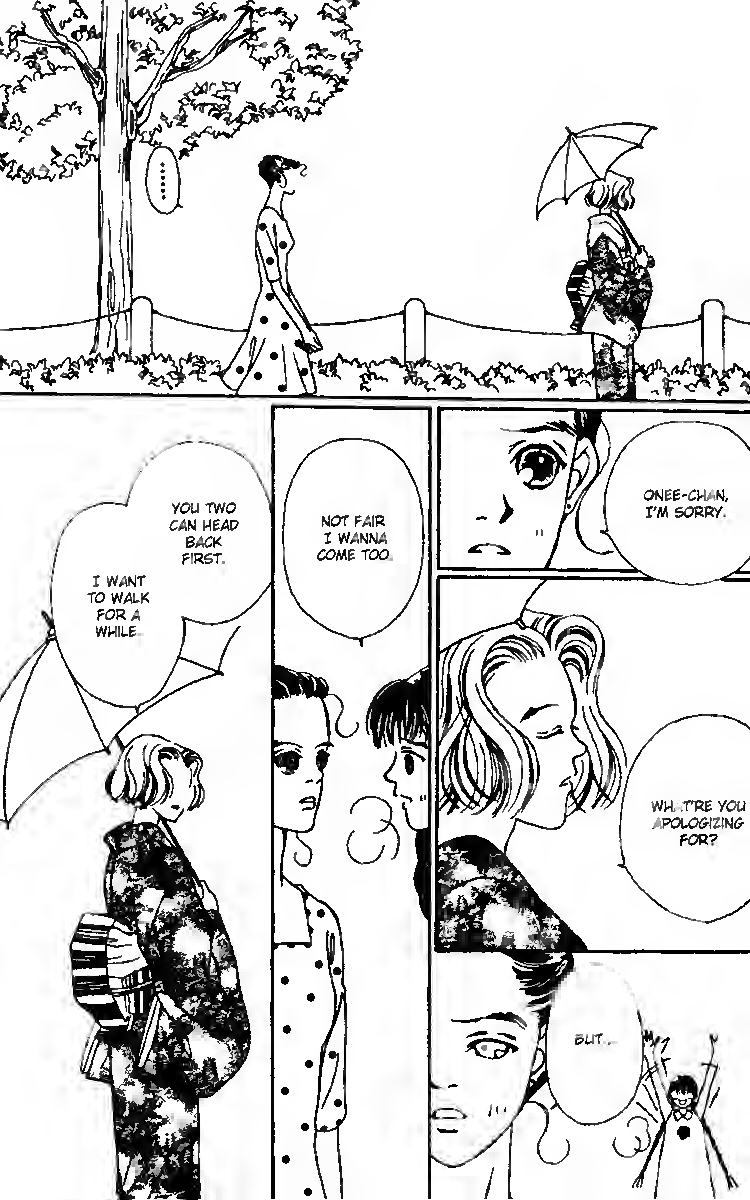

MOM SAID TO GIVE THIS TO HIM WHEN YOU VISIT.
.....
ARARE, PLEASE GO FOR ME.
EH? WHAT?
NO, NOTHING.
ALL RIGHT, YOU GO AHEAD. I'LL BE ON YOUR HEELS IN A FLASH, OKAY?
.....
He would prefer to see you than me, you know.
ichiokA
SHOUJO

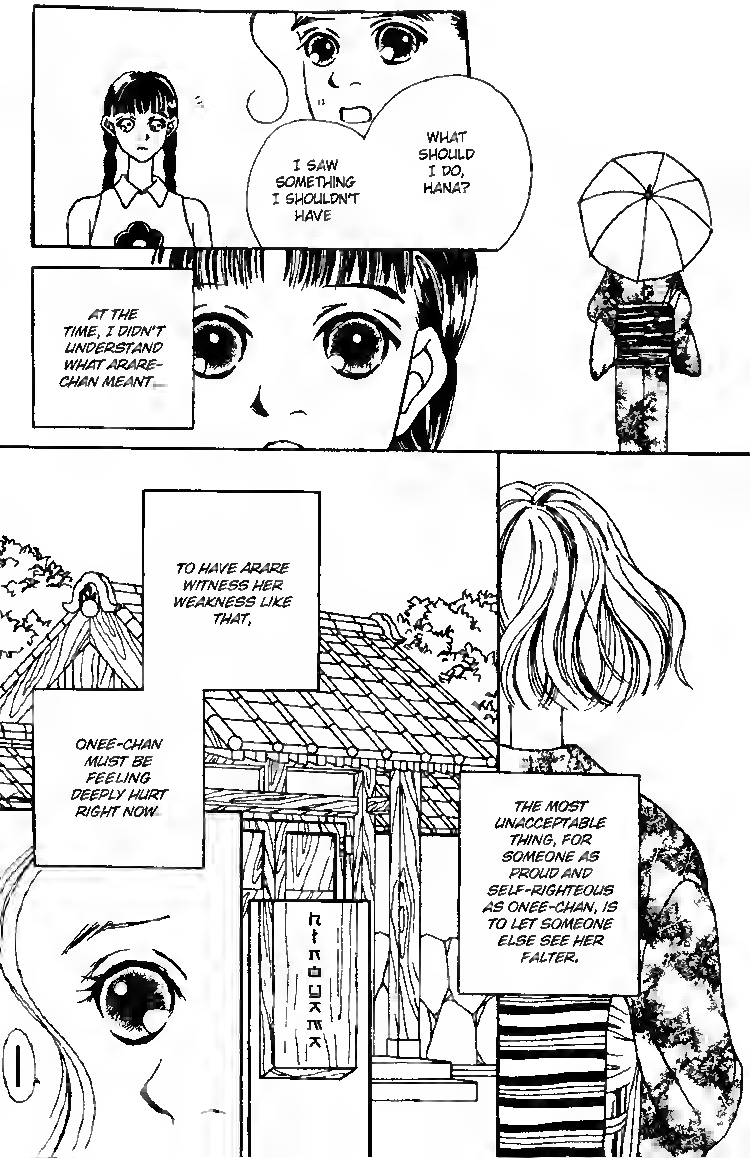
I WAS SERIOUS YESTERDAY
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I ALREADY AGREED TO MARRY HINOYAMA-SAN.
PLEASE DON'T MENTION THIS AGAIN
BUT IF I DON'T SAY IT NOW, I'LL REGRET IT LATER.
PLEASE RECONSIDER. IT'S NOT TOO LATE
HINA-SAN'S FEELINGS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING HERE. NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.

CLANG
YOU STILL HAVE TIME, HINA-SAN
. . .
AH
!!!!!!
ON SECOND THOUGHT . . .



...WHAT HE SAID KIND OF MAKES SENSE.

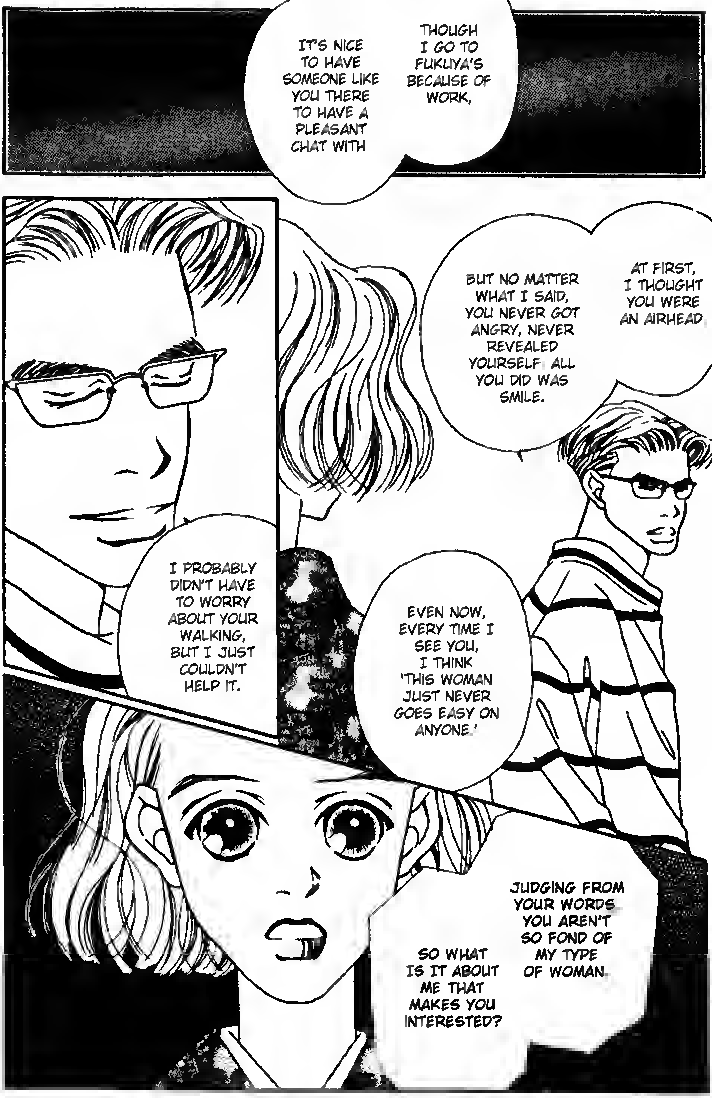

.....
ONEE-CHAN, I'M SORRY.
"
NOT FAIR I WANNA COME TOO.
YOU TWO CAN HEAD BACK FIRST.
I WANT TO WALK FOR A WHILE.
WH...T'RE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR?
BUT...
!!!


I SAW SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T HAVE
WHAT SHOULD I DO, HANA?
AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT ARARE-CHAN MEANT...
TO HAVE ARARE WITNESS HER WEAKNESS LIKE THAT,
ONEE-CHAN MUST BE FEELING DEEPLY HURT RIGHT NOW.
THE MOST UNACCEPTABLE THING, FOR SOMEONE AS PROUD AND SELF-RIGHTEOUS AS ONEE-CHAN, IS TO LET SOMEONE ELSE SEE HER FALTER.

I'M JUST TAKING A WALK. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG
THEN PLEASE LET ME WALK WITH YOU. MY GRANDPA JUST WENT OUT TOO
HINA-SAN. HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?
PLEASE WAIT HERE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
OKAY...
HERE YOU ARE.

IT'S FOR YOU
THAT DIRTY UMBRELLA DOESN'T SUIT YOU.
I ONLY HAD YOUR GIVEN NAME ENGRAVED FOR NOW
HINA
YOUR LAST NAME WILL CHANGE SOON ANYWAY
NEXT YEAR WILL DO. LET'S GO.
IT'S GETTING DARK. WATCH YOUR STEP

AH
YOU'RE A STRONG WOMAN


IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU THERE TO HAVE A PLEASANT CHAT WITH
THOUGH I GO TO FUKUYA'S BECAUSE OF WORK,
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN AIRHEAD
BUT NO MATTER WHAT I SAID, YOU NEVER GOT ANGRY, NEVER REVEALED YOURSELF. ALL YOU DID WAS SMILE.
I PROBABLY DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR WALKING, BUT I JUST COULDN'T HELP IT.
EVEN NOW, EVERY TIME I SEE YOU, I THINK 'THIS WOMAN JUST NEVER GOES EASY ON ANYONE.'
JUDGING FROM YOUR WORDS YOU AREN'T SO FOND OF MY TYPE OF WOMAN.
SO WHAT IS IT ABOUT ME THAT MAKES YOU INTERESTED?

ONE DAY I SAW YOU AT A VEGETABLE SHOP
YOU BARGAINED FOR A RADISH AND ASKED FOR A RECEIPT
YEAH, WHEN?
BUT YOUR WALLET STILL LOOKED THIN AND VERY NEAT.
AFTER THAT, I DISCOVERED MANY OTHER THINGS ABOUT YOU
AND IT DAWNED ON ME,
I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN ORDERLY AND REFINED PERSON
THESE DAYS, EVERYONE'S WALLET FILLS UP WITH RECEIPTS AND SMALL CHANGE, ESPECIALLY THAT OF SHOPKEEPERS

YOU ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF EVERYONE SO PERFECTLY, BUT NEVER ASK FOR ANYTHING IN RETURN
IT'S PROBABLY DUE TO YOUR UPBRINGING, BUT YOU'VE SACRIFICED MANY THINGS FOR THE SHOP.
WHENEVER SOMETHING HAPPENS, YOU KEEP IT TO YOURSELF. DO YOU MIND THAT I SPEAK SO BLUNTLY?
HINA-SAN.
NO.
I THINK YOU ARE ...

DEEP DOWN, YOU MIGHT NOT BE AS STRONG AS YOU LEAD OTHERS THINK. BUT IN ORDER TO CARRY ON YOUR FAMILY BUSINESS,
YOU CHOSE TO HIDE YOUR WEAKNESSES.
WHATEVER YOU FEEL INSIDE, YOU NEVER LET IT SLIP FROM YOUR FACADE
A VERY ADMIRABLE PERSON.
I LIKE THAT TIGER IN YOU. NOW THAT I HAVE ANSWERED YOUR QUESTION.
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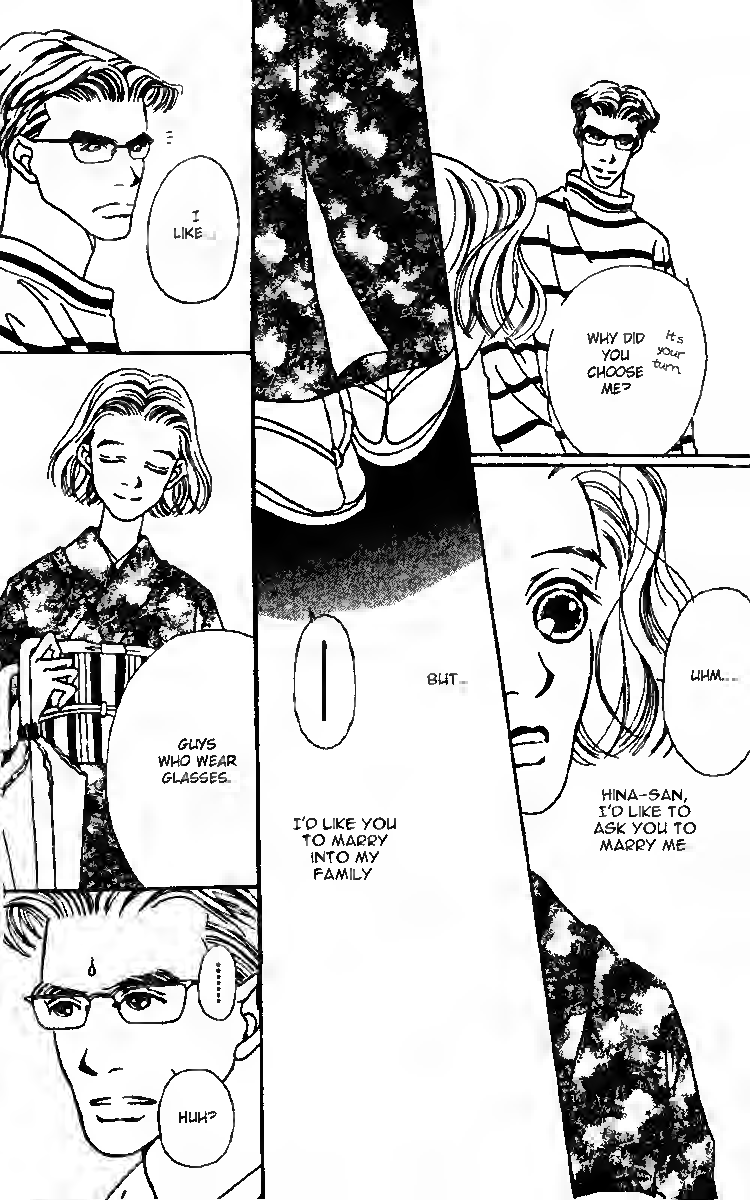
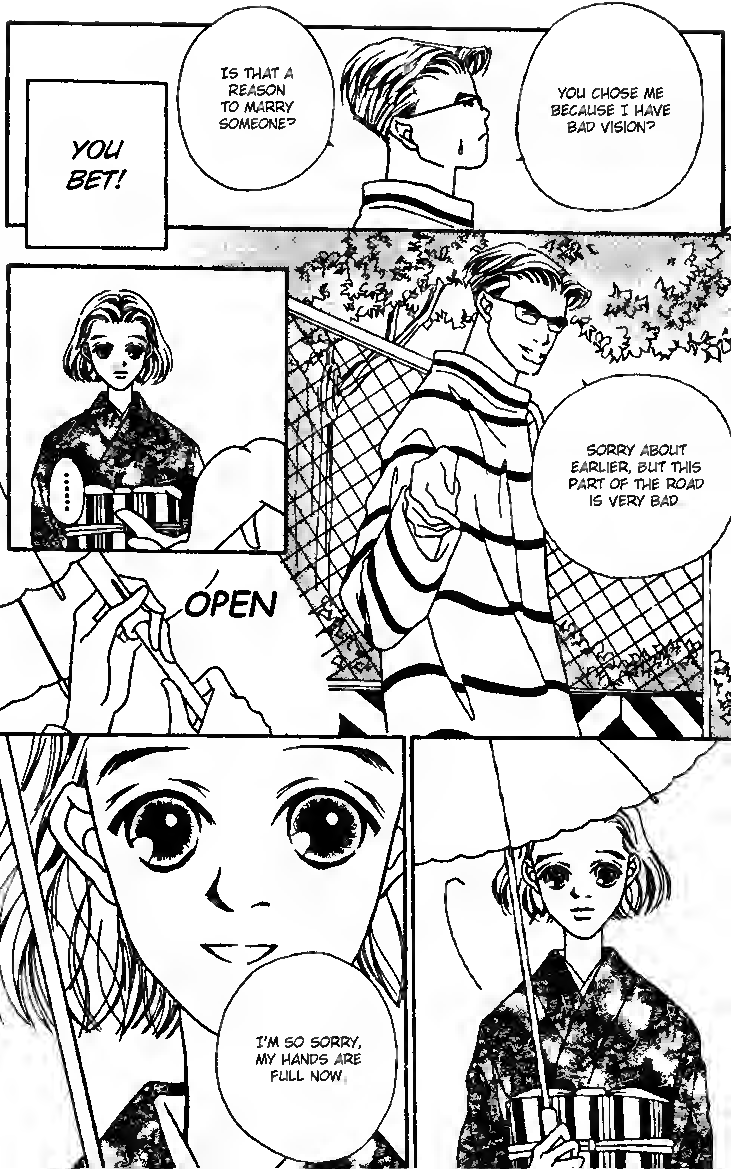
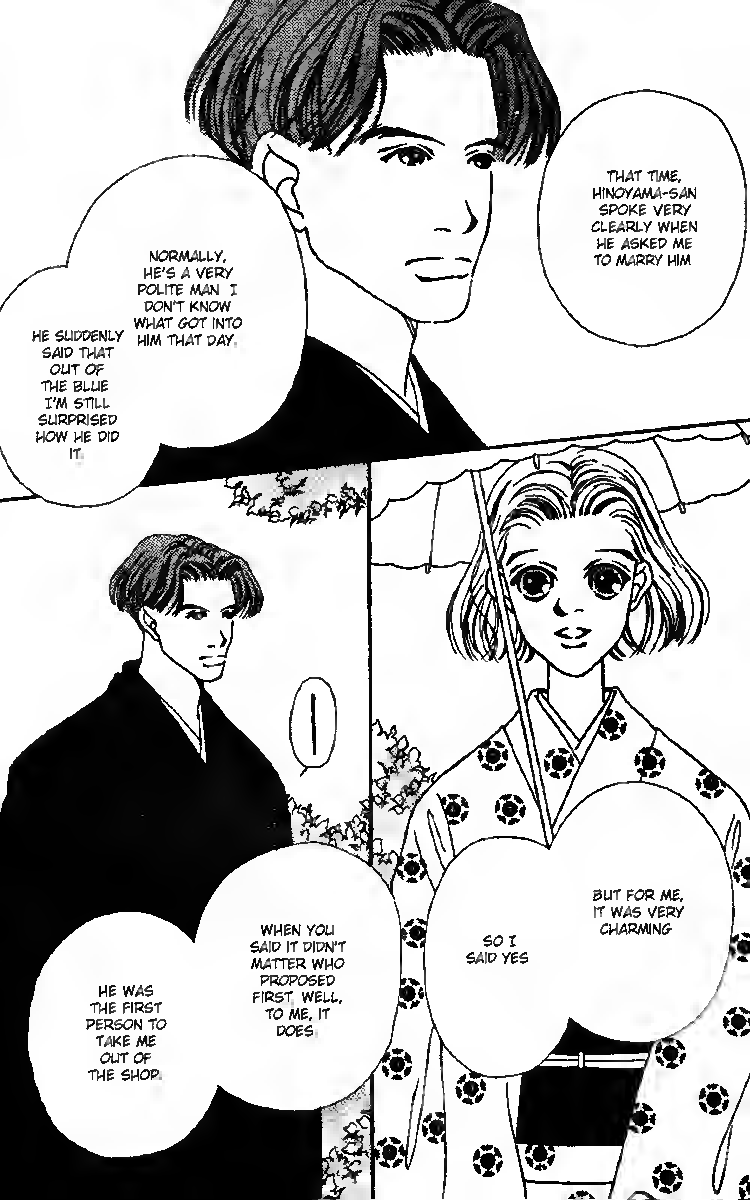

I LIKE...
GUYS WHO WEAR GLASSES.
.....
HUH?
I'D LIKE YOU TO MARRY INTO MY FAMILY
BUT...
HINA-SAN, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU TO MARRY ME
UHM...
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ME?
It's your turn.


YOU BET!
IS THAT A REASON TO MARRY SOMEONE?
YOU CHOSE ME BECAUSE I HAVE BAD VISION?
SORRY ABOUT EARLIER, BUT THIS PART OF THE ROAD IS VERY BAD
OPEN
I'M SO SORRY, MY HANDS ARE FULL NOW

I SEE.
HINOYAMA-SAN.
.....
ARE YOU REALLY IGNORANT, OR JUST PRETENDING TO BE? DON'T YOU KNOW THAT THE PAINT ON ONEE-CHAN'S UMBRELLA IS EXCLUSIVE TO KABUKI ACTORS?
THOUGH I CAN'T SPEAK FOR SURE
BUT I THINK THAT HINOYAMA-SAN MIGHT BE THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN UNDERSTAND ONEE-CHAN.

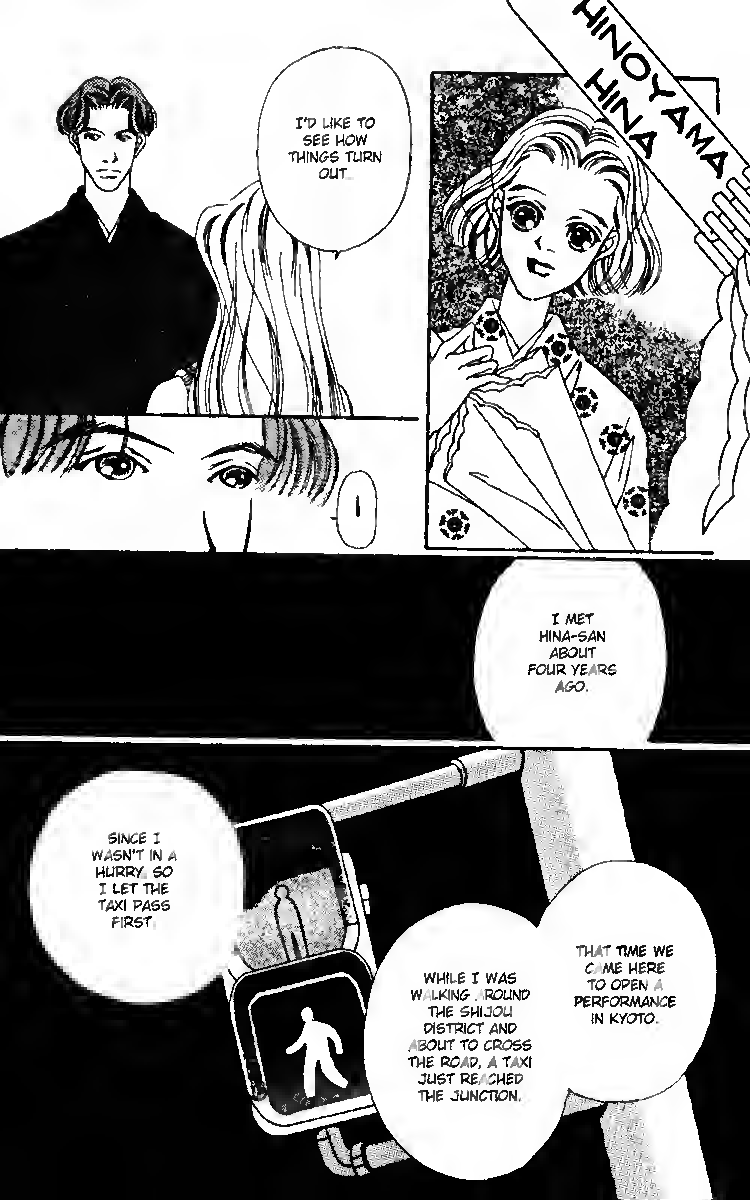
I REALLY CAN'T DO IT.
.....
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FORGIVE MYSELF.
THERE WILL BE MANY PROBLEMS IF I DO.
I FELT LIKE I HAD LOST TOO MUCH OF MYSELF TRYING TO PLEASE MY FAMILY.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
WHY CAN'T IT BE ME?


THAT TIME, HINOYAMA-SAN SPOKE VERY CLEARLY WHEN HE ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM
NORMALLY, HE'S A VERY POLITE MAN. I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT INTO HIM THAT DAY.
HE SUDDENLY SAID THAT OUT OF THE BLUE. I'M STILL SURPRISED HOW HE DID IT.
BUT FOR ME, IT WAS VERY CHARMING
SO I SAID YES
WHEN YOU SAID IT DIDN'T MATTER WHO PROPOSED FIRST. WELL, TO ME, IT DOES.
HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO TAKE ME OUT OF THE SHOP.

PLEASE STOP BY OUR SHOP SOMETIMES
MOM AND ARARE ARE FANS OF YOURS
WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU
HINA-SAN ...
SHOUJUROU-SAN.
ARARE.

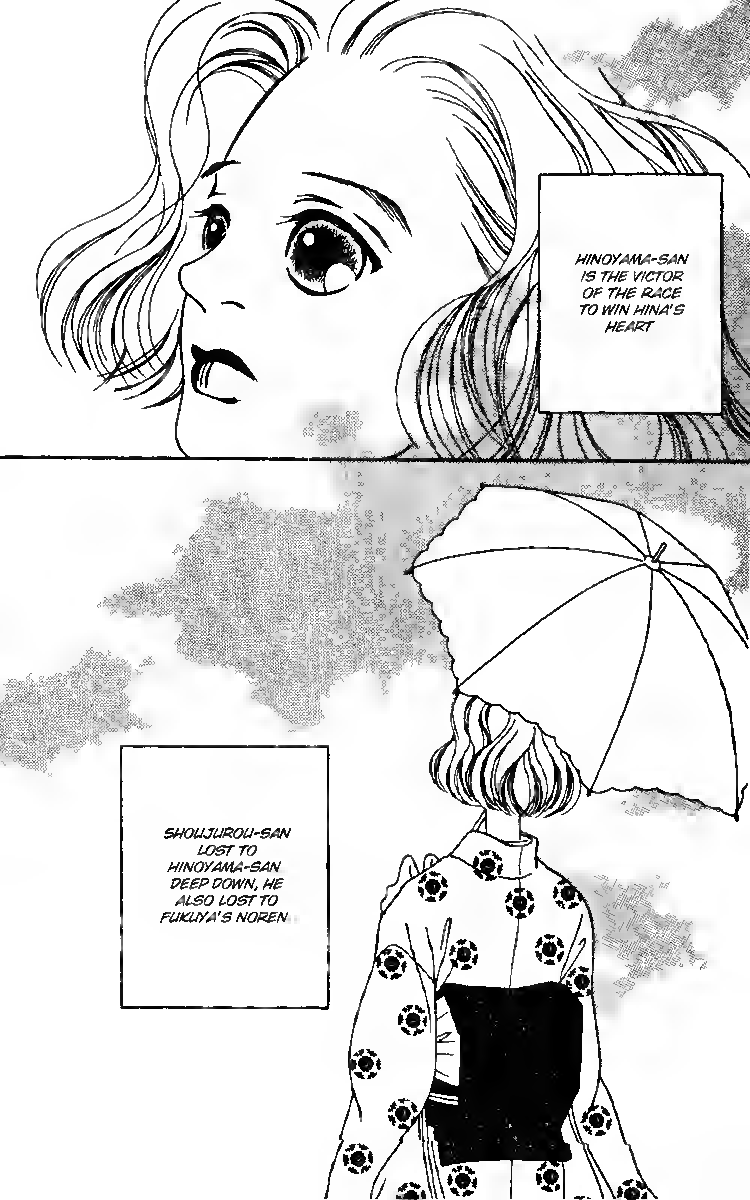
LET HER GO
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD GIRL
DOING SOMETHING THAT FEELS WRONG IS VERY HARD FOR HER.
I PERSONALLY DON'T LIKE THE MAN SHE'S GOING TO MARRY.
HE'S SARCASTIC, SLY, SELF-CENTERED, AND NO ONE KNOWS WHAT SCHEME IS SPAWNING IN HIS HEAD,
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY...

HE'S FROM KANSAI BUT REFUSES TO SPEAK THE KANSAI DIALECT
AND ALWAYS NAGS AND CATCHES ME OUT WITH BITING REMARKS,
AND TALKS SOPHISTI-CATEDLY WITH PLAYS ON WORDS HOW ANNOYING
.....
BUT...
HE'S ONEE-CHAN'S CHOICE.
MAYBE THOSE TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.


HINOYAMA HINA
I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW THINGS TURN OUT.
I MET HINA-SAN ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO.
THAT TIME WE CAME HERE TO OPEN A PERFORMANCE IN KYOTO.
WHILE I WAS WALKING AROUND THE SHIJOU DISTRICT AND ABOUT TO CROSS THE ROAD, A TAXI JUST REACHED THE JUNCTION.
SINCE I WASN'T IN A HURRY, SO I LET THE TAXI PASS FIRST.

SHE BOWED, THANKING ME FOR LETTING HER PAST FIRST.
THE PERSON IN THE BACKSEAT WAS HINA-SAN
NOT LONG AFTER THAT, I LEARNED THAT HINA-SAN WAS A DAUGHTER OF FUKUYA'S WAGASHI SHOP.
I WANTED TO TALK TO HER AND GET TO KNOW HER BETTER
AT THE SAME TIME, I KNEW IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE BETWEEN US BECAUSE SHE WOULD BECOME THE SUCCESSOR OF A SHOP THAT HAD BEEN PASSED ON FOR GENERATIONS
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD HER ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS EARLIER
IF YOU'VE LOVED ONEE-CHAN SINCE THE BEGINNING, WHY SHOULD YOU CARE NOW?

HOW COULD I NOT CARE ABOUT THE SHOP'S HISTORY?
WHY NOT...?
BECAUSE I AM...
ALSO BEARING THE WEIGHT OF A NOREN WITH A LONG-STANDING HISTORY


HINOYAMA-SAN IS THE VICTOR OF THE RACE TO WIN HINA'S HEART
SHOUJUROU-SAN LOST TO HINOYAMA-SAN DEEP DOWN, HE ALSO LOST TO FUKUYA'S NOREN

WELL...
IF YOU KEEP POSTPONING IT, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SET A DATE
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS TO PREPARE
AH. .
.....
I TOLD YOU THE ROAD WAS REALLY TERRIBLE WOULD YOU LIKE MY HELP TO GET UP?
NO, THANKS
STUBBORN GIRL

IF YOU DON'T CRY, I'LL PLAY RIDDLES WITH YOU, OKAY?
I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE
PAT
PAT
HOW SILLY
TO PLAY RIDDLES
WE TALKED ONCE BEFORE...
NOW I REMEMBER

WAHH
THAT BOY...
WAHH
WAHH
WAHH
YOU FELL DOWN?
WAHH
WAHH
YES, I DID!
WAHHH-HHHH

GO AWAY!
STOOD UP I'M LOW, SAT DOWN I'M HIGH, WHAT AM I?
SNIFF
SNIFF
STOOD UP I'M LOW, SAT DOWN I'M HIGH, WHAT AM I?
CORRECT. HOW ABOUT THIS ONE, BEAT ME ALL DAY, BUT I WON'T GET ANGRY. WHAT AM I?
THE CEILING?

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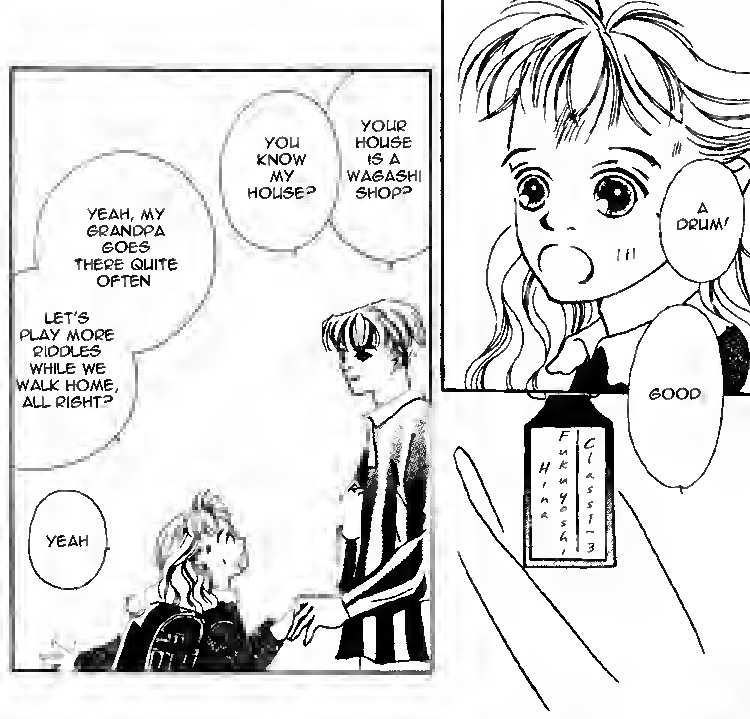
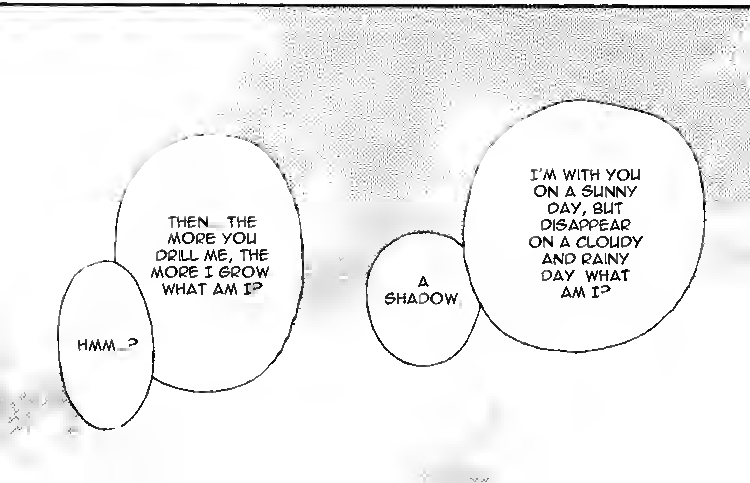
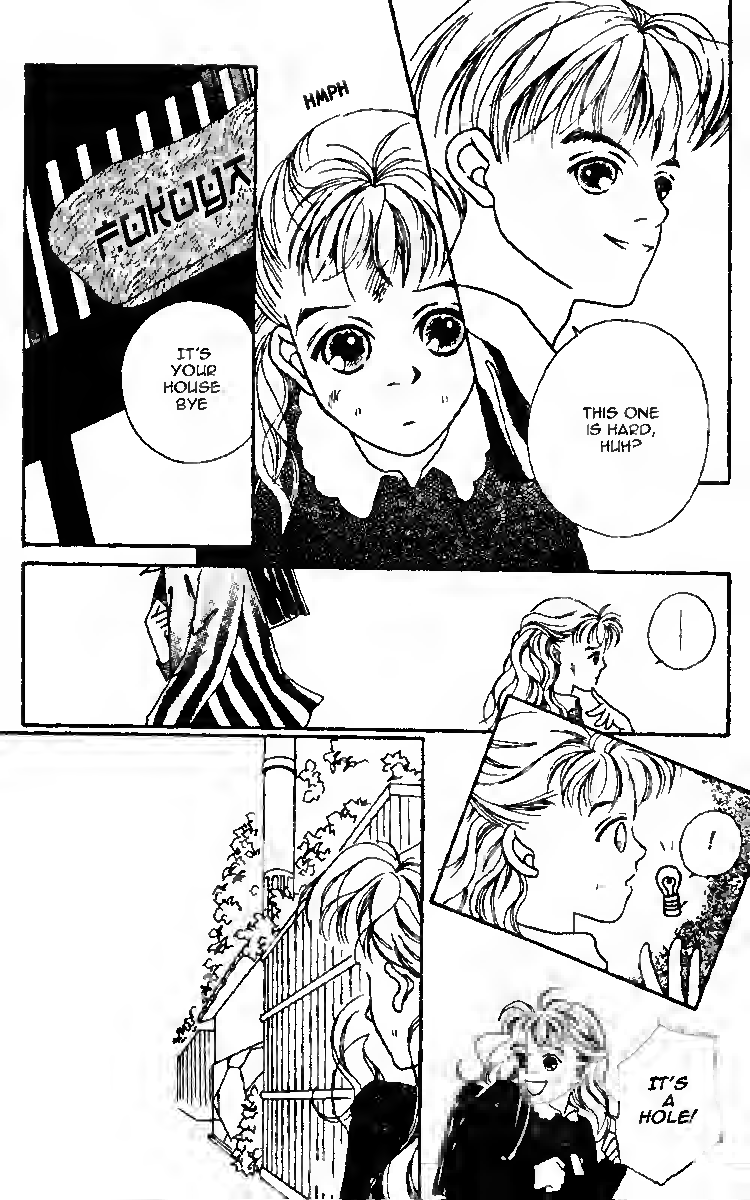
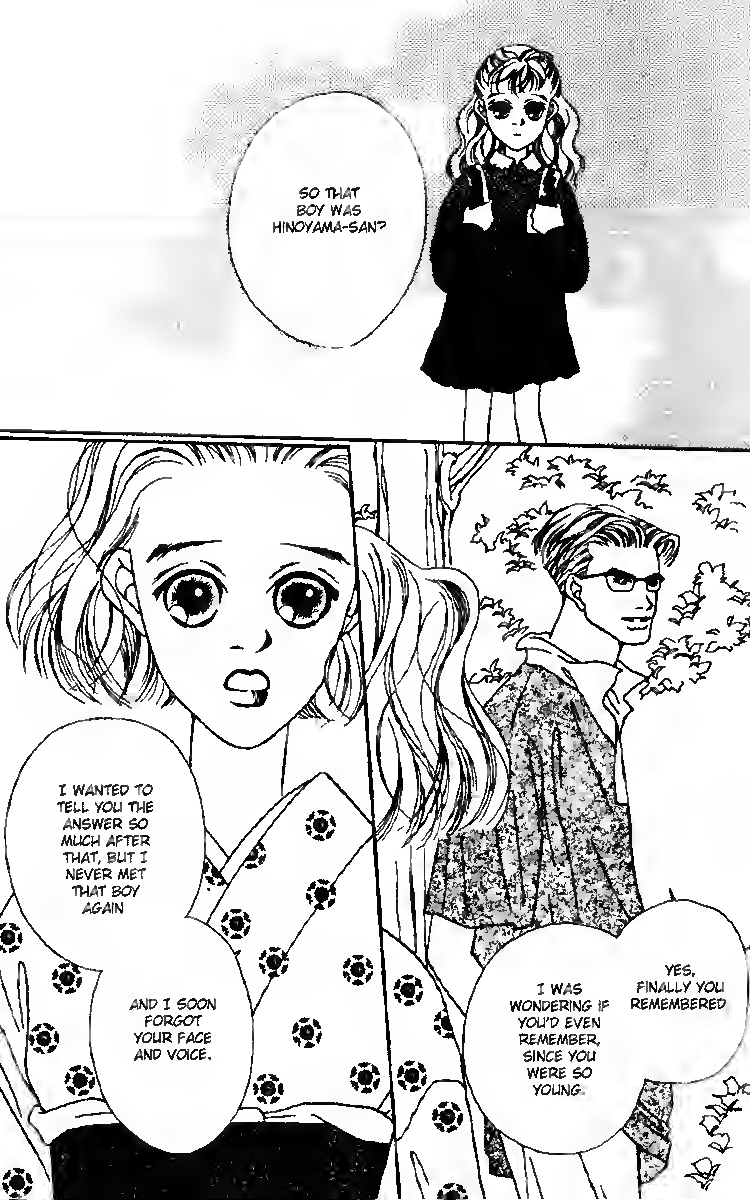
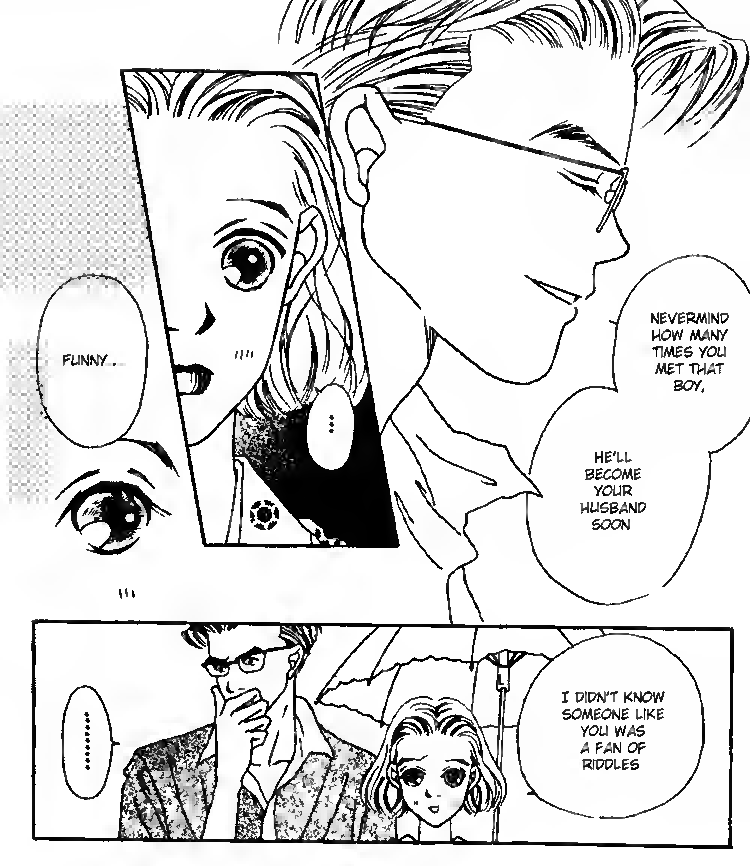

A DRUM!
GOOD
Hina Fukuyoshi Class 1-3
YOUR HOUSE IS A WAGASHI SHOP?
YOU KNOW MY HOUSE?
YEAH, MY GRANDPA GOES THERE QUITE OFTEN
LET'S PLAY MORE RIDDLES WHILE WE WALK HOME, ALL RIGHT?
YEAH


I'M WITH YOU ON A SUNNY DAY, BUT DISAPPEAR ON A CLOUDY AND RAINY DAY WHAT AM I?
A SHADOW
THEN_ THE MORE YOU DRILL ME, THE MORE I GROW WHAT AM I?
HMM_?


HMPH
FUKUDA
IT'S YOUR HOUSE BYE
THIS ONE IS HARD, HUH?
!
!
IT'S A HOLE!


SO THAT BOY WAS HINOYAMA-SAN?
I WANTED TO TELL YOU THE ANSWER SO MUCH AFTER THAT, BUT I NEVER MET THAT BOY AGAIN
AND I SOON FORGOT YOUR FACE AND VOICE.
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D EVEN REMEMBER, SINCE YOU WERE SO YOUNG.
YES, FINALLY YOU REMEMBERED


FUNNY..
NEVERMIND HOW MANY TIMES YOU MET THAT BOY,
HE'LL BECOME YOUR HUSBAND SOON
I DIDN'T KNOW SOMEONE LIKE YOU WAS A FAN OF RIDDLES

QUESTION, ANSWER.

QUESTION, ANSWER.

I GUESS AN OUTSIDER WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND THE DEPTH OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP...
IF ARARE-CHAN GETS CURIOUS AGAIN, THAT'S WHAT I'LL TELL HER
HOWEVER...
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE HAS ALREADY SHIFTED HER INTEREST AWAY FROM ONEE-CHAN.
HEY, HANA
DO YOU AND IORI HAVE A HEIGHT PROBLEM?
ACK

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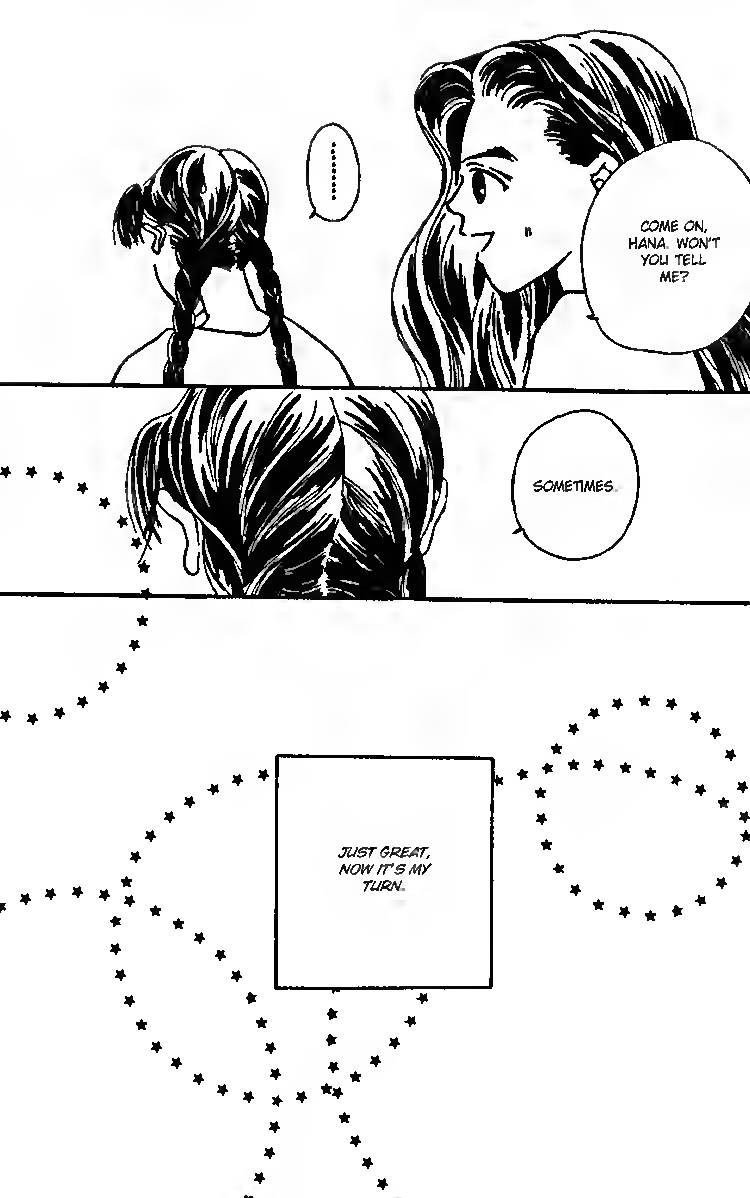
.....
COME ON, HANA. WON'T YOU TELL ME?
SOMETIMES.
JUST GREAT, NOW IT'S MY TURN.

Class 1-3
Fukuyoshi
Hina

Beankids Dango
Dango is a Japanese dumpling made from rice flour. 3-4 dango are often served on a skewer.
This creative version of dango's from Namiko Tokeep shop in Takashimaya department store in Nagoya, Japan

Fukuyadon Honpo

by YUCHI Yayomi

Scanned & Translated by : chihaya
Cleaned by : arumun
Proof-read by : Maverick
Edited by : Kilinminah
Quality checked by : elvisarulma

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

Even though I speak it every day, writing dialogue in the Kansai* dialect is quite challenging. I thought I knew the concept of it, but if you're not constantly speaking it, it's very hard to understand what some things mean. To make it sound more natural and it easier for everyone to understand, I set some time aside everyday to go back and revise it.

In this book, Kenji decides to go back to his hometown in Osaka, but how will Arare deal with it?!

-Yuchi Yayomi

[* The Kansai region includes Nara, Kyoto, Osaka, and Kobe. Kansai dialect has a lot of honorific speech and is characterized as being both more melodic and harsher by speakers of the standard language. -Wikipedia]

FukuyaDouHonpo

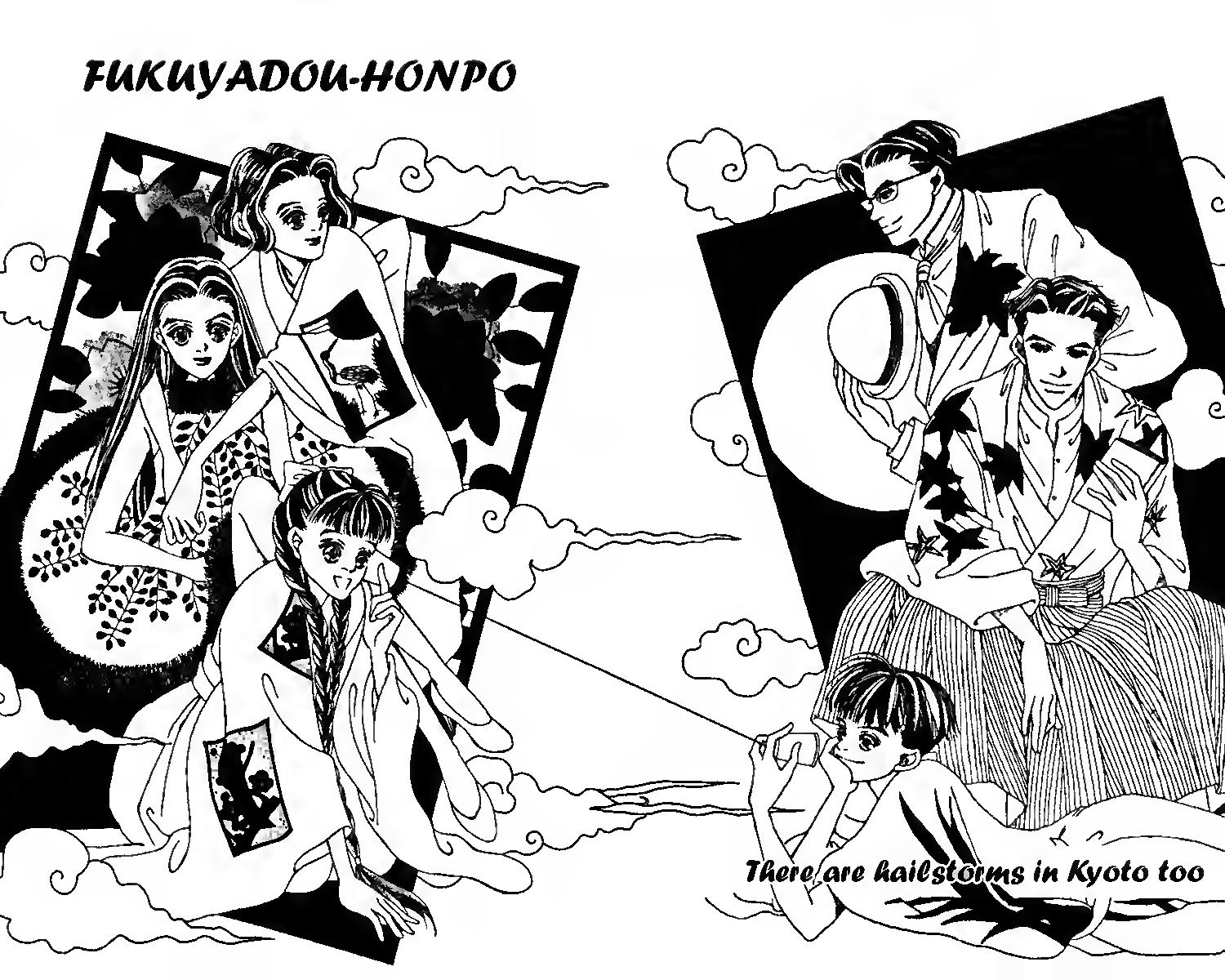
福堂本舗

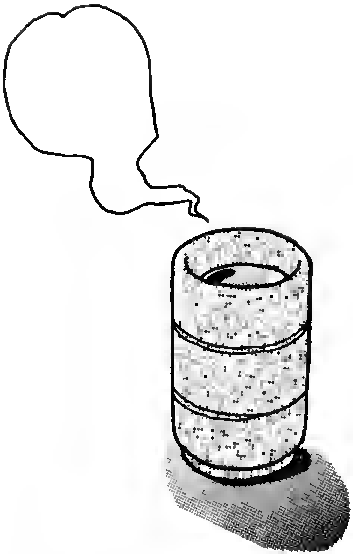
2

Story & Illustrated by

YAYOMI YUCHI

There are hailstorms in Kyoto too


FUKUYADOU-HONPO
There are hailstorms in Kyoto too



IT'S THE AQUARIUM'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY? I'D LOVE TO GO THERE SOMETIME
OSAKA'S JUST A FEW MINUTES AWAY BY TRAIN
WHY DON'T YOU GO WITH KENJI-SAN?
.....
.....
.....

IT'S BUSY THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. I'M NOT AVAILABLE.
I DON'T NEED HIM TO GO WITH ME. I KNOW OSAKA LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND.
WHY? SINCE KENJI-SAN KNOWS OSAKA WELL
Did I say something wrong?
MOM'S HOPES OF SEEING ONEE-CHAN AND KENJI-SAN GET TOGETHER HAS BEEN CRUSHED.
I WISH ARARE WAS A LITTLE MORE OBEDIENT
AND KENJI-SAN A LITTLE MORE CONSIDERATE
BUT ARARE'S LOVE STILL GOES NOWHERE. THOSE TWO ARE ALWAYS LIKE THIS.

LET ME HELP
BUT KENJI-SAN IS ALWAYS KIND TO ME AND ONEE-CHAN
GRAB
OH
LEAVE THE REST TO ME
SO HEAVY..
Thank you.
DAMMIT.
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO ARARE..
AH.
NGH.

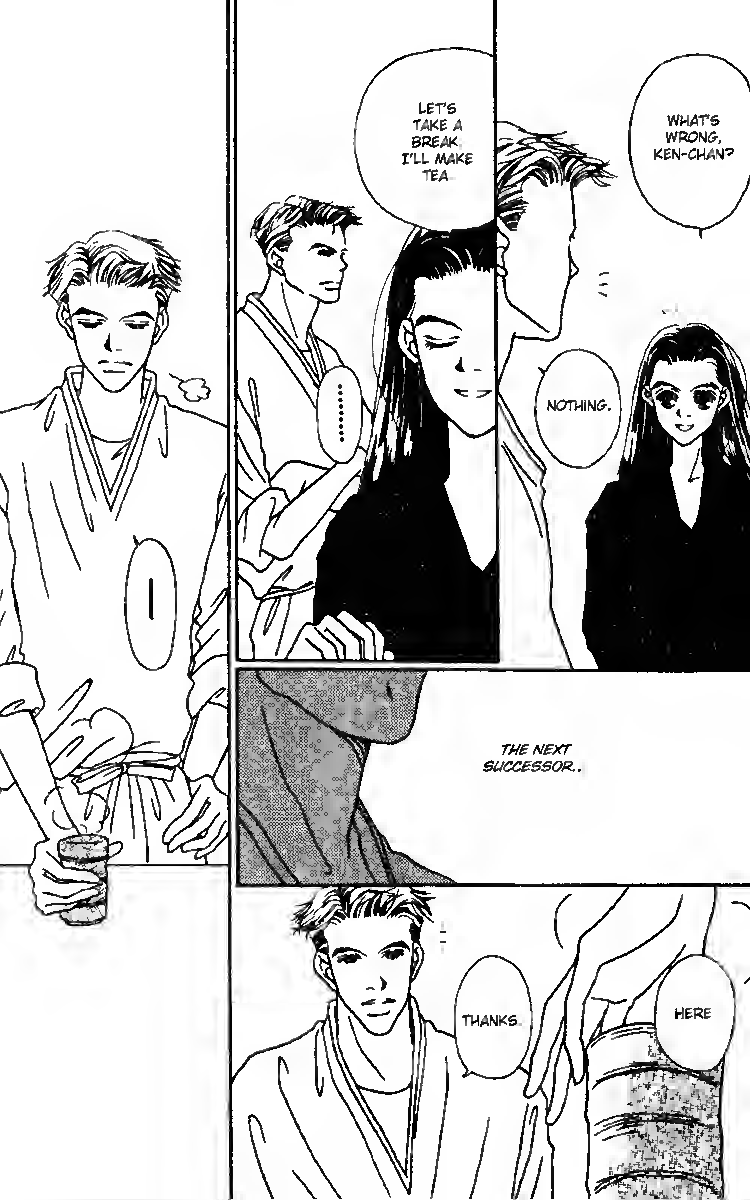
hmph
HE IGNORED ME
IGNORE
OOH, LUCKY!
SCRAAAAAPE
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE

OH...
.....
THANKS.
BUT WHEN THEY'RE NICE TO EACH OTHER, IT DOESN'T LOOK NATURAL...

ONCE NO ONE IS AROUND,
THESE TWO MAKE IT THEIR JOB TO BREAK THE PEACE.
RETARD. EVEN AFTER WRITING AN ORDER DOWN YOU CAN'T GET IT RIGHT.
I'M NOT AT FAULT HERE. IT'S YOU WHO HEARD IT WRONG.
So scary
WHAT'S IT THIS TIME...?
BUT ONEE-CHAN...
SHH... LET THEM BE, HANA. THEY'LL CALM DOWN SOON.
HA HA
SO IT'S SEI-OJISAN

OKAY THEN.
HA HA, I GUESS
GOOD THING I KEPT QUIET
.....

I HOPE THE NEXT SUCCESSOR DOESN'T MIND TOO MUCH.
YOU TWO SEEM TO GET ALONG WELL...
GRANDPA, YOU BARGED INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S HOUSE UNINVITED.
IT WAS MY GRANDSON'S SELFISHNESS THAT CAUSED THIS SHOP TROUBLE.
HINOYAMA-SAN.
YES, PLEASE COME IN.
IS KOMA-CHAN INSIDE?


LET'S TAKE A BREAK. I'LL MAKE TEA.
WHAT'S WRONG, KEN-CHAN?
.....
NOTHING.
THE NEXT SUCCESSOR..
THANKS.
HERE

THE URBAN LEGEND OF THE DAY IS...
YOU PLANNED TO SKIP WORK, DIDN'T YOU?
YEAH. BOTH ONEE-CHAN AND HANA ARE HERE TODAY.
IS IT OKAY TO LEAVE THE SHOP UNATTENDED?
THE TEA SHE MAKES IS COMPLETELY TASTELESS
BEEP
IT'S A DUMB SHOW. WHO WOULD WANT TO WATCH IT?
WHY DID YOU TURN IT OFF? I WAS WATCHING THAT.
ONEE-CHAN! HANA! KEN-CHAN IS AFRAID OF GHOSTS!
.....
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SCARED.

Stop being silly
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING YOU TELL EVERY-BODY
MFFF
MUFFLE
SOMEONE, CARRY THE WAGASHI INTO THE STORE, PLEASE.

RELEASE
Ah
?
WAGASHI?
I'll tell Onee-chan.
I RUINED THE MOOD.

OH, KENJI. THE WAGASHI TO BE DELIVERED THIS AFTERNOON IS MISSING.
MISSING? HOW MANY?
JUST ONE...
.....
STRANGE, IT'S MISSING
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ARARE AGAIN?
COULD BE...
I'M ALWAYS TELLING HER NOT TO TAKE WAGASHI FROM THE SHOP...

AH...
ARARE!
ARARE!
ARARE!
I'M SORRY
FEEL FREE TO GO IN
DOING SOMETHING.
ARARE? SHE'S INSIDE
ARARE!
This is not easy.
Stephanie's not an option now, but can it really be Ararre?

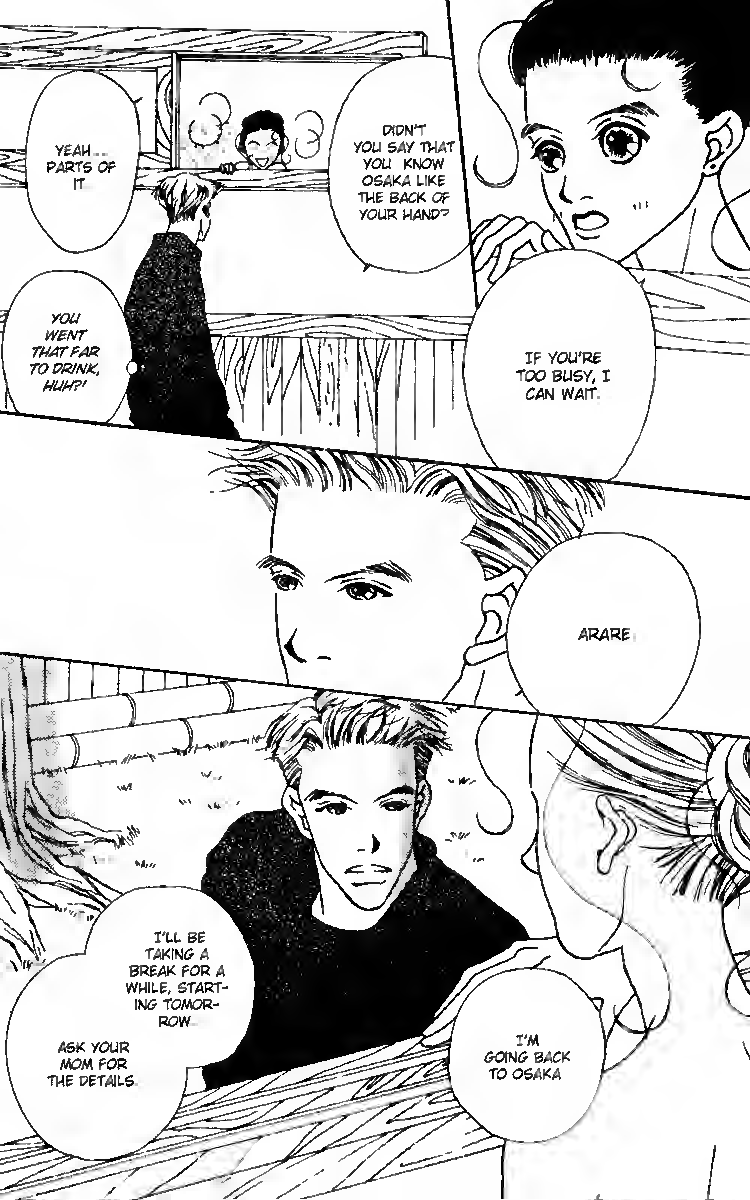
ARA...
HMM
.....

SO~ PRETTY
WHEN YOU PLACE IT LIKE THIS IT GIVES OUT A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FEELING
SEE?

YES.
HANA, PLEASE TELL UNCLE SEI THAT I'LL MAKE THE MISSING PIECE MYSELF
KENJI-SAN, YOU'VE GOT A PHONE CALL FROM YOUR FAMILY.
OKAY
HELLO, IT'S BEEN A WHILE
KENJI-SAN'S FAMILY LIVE IN OSAKA
A CALL FROM HIS FAMILY? THAT'S STRANGE.
OKAY, I SEE
EH?

I GET IT. LET ME TALK TO THEM
HIS OLDER BROTHER INHERITED THEIR FAMILY'S WAGASHI SHOP IN OSAKA.
BUT HE CAME TO LIVE HERE ALONE.
SPLASH
Is the same snow.
The snow in Kyoto
The snow on Mt. Fuji
The same snow
The same snow
The same snow

WHO'S THERE?
You dare to peep at this Arare?! Unforgivable.
CRACK
SORRY, SORRY
ARE YOU REALLY GOING HOME?
YEAH!
WHAT? IT'S KEN-CHAN
I'M NOT A PEEPING TOM
HEY, KENJI
WHAT ....?
ABOUT THE AQUARIUM

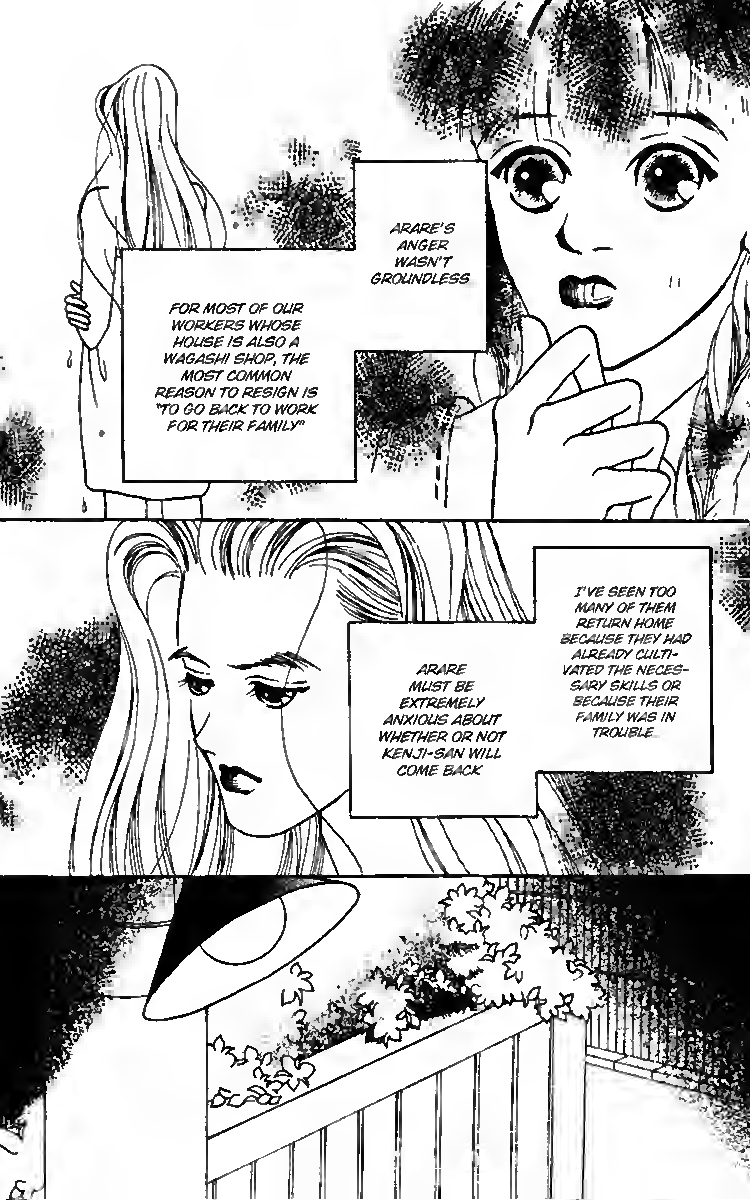

YEAH... PARTS OF IT.
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU KNOW OSAKA LIKE THE BACK OF YOUR HAND?
YOU WENT THAT FAR TO DRINK, HUH?
IF YOU'RE TOO BUSY, I CAN WAIT.
ARARE.
I'LL BE TAKING A BREAK FOR A WHILE, STARTING TOMORROW.
ASK YOUR MOM FOR THE DETAILS.
I'M GOING BACK TO OSAKA

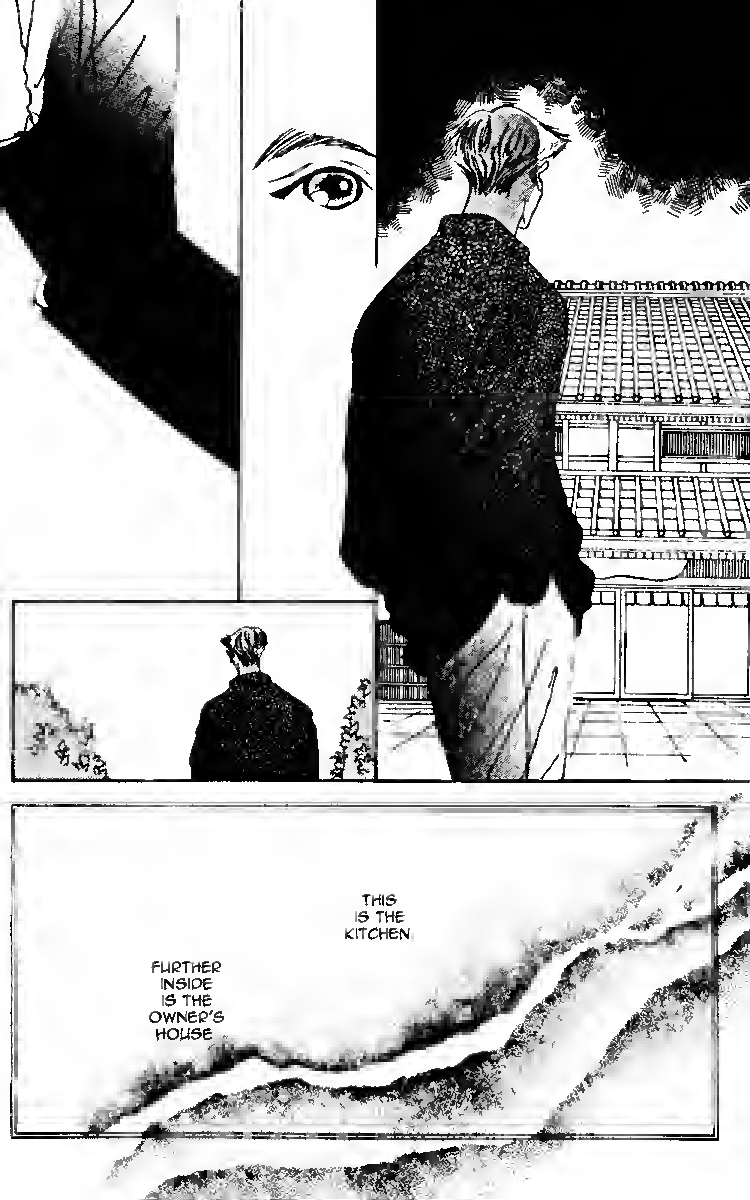
FOR A WHILE? HOW LONG IS A WHILE?
ONE WEEK? TWO WEEKS?
I DON'T KNOW
YOU DON'T KNOW? MAYBE ONE MONTH? OR TWO MONTHS?
I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE
BUT YOU'LL DEFINITELY COME BACK, RIGHT?
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT, EITHER.

BYE
YOU DON'T KNOW...?
KEN-CHAN!
MEANING YOU'RE LEAVING FUKUYA'S?

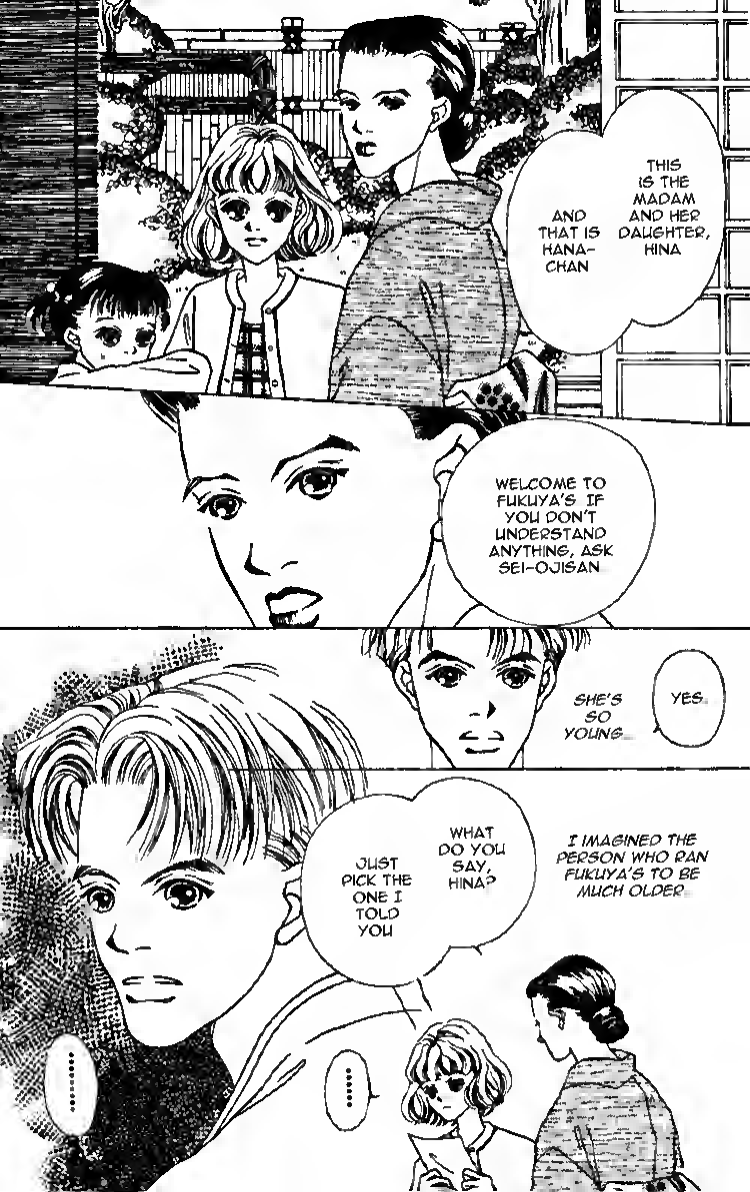
WHY IS THE FLOOR WET?
SPLAT
♫
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
ARE YOU GOING TO JUST STAND THERE AND WATCH KEN-CHAN LEAVE?
HOW COULD YOU ALLOW HIM TO TAKE SUCH A LONG BREAK?
KEN-CHAN'S OLDER BROTHER IS INJURED SO HE HAS TO GO BACK TO OSAKA.
I TOLD HIM TO TAKE A BREAK SO THAT HE WOULDN'T LEAVE ENTIRELY.

TOMORROW WILL BE HECTIC WITHOUT KEN-CHAN AROUND
BUT EVERY-ONE SAID THEY'LL HELP OUT THE BEST THEY CAN.
BUT MOM!
EVEN IF THERE ARE ONLY WOMEN IN THIS HOUSE,
IT'S IMPROPER TO COME OUT WITH ONLY A TOWEL ON
sigh. If I had known, I would have pressured Hina more.
THIS CON-VERSATION IS OVER!


ARARE'S ANGER WASN'T GROUNDLESS
FOR MOST OF OUR WORKERS WHOSE HOUSE IS ALSO A WAGASHI SHOP, THE MOST COMMON REASON TO RESIGN IS "TO GO BACK TO WORK FOR THEIR FAMILY"
I'VE SEEN TOO MANY OF THEM RETURN HOME BECAUSE THEY HAD ALREADY CULTIVATED THE NECESSARY SKILLS OR BECAUSE THEIR FAMILY WAS IN TROUBLE...
ARARE MUST BE EXTREMELY ANXIOUS ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT KENJI-SAN WILL COME BACK


THIS IS THE KITCHEN.
FURTHER INSIDE IS THE OWNER'S HOUSE.

KENJI.
KENJI
MADAM, I'VE BROUGHT THE NEW TRAINEE
COME IN
THE OWNER PASSED AWAY LAST YEAR. RIGHT NOW THE SHOP BUSINESS IS IN THE MADAM'S CARE
YES
ARE YOU LISTENING? GO SEE THE MADAM FIRST


THIS IS THE MADAM AND HER DAUGHTER, HINA
AND THAT IS HANA-CHAN
WELCOME TO FUKUYA'S IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING, ASK SEI-OJISAN
YES.
SHE'S SO YOUNG...
I IMAGINED THE PERSON WHO RAN FUKUYA'S TO BE MUCH OLDER.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, HINA?
JUST PICK THE ONE I TOLD YOU
.....
.....

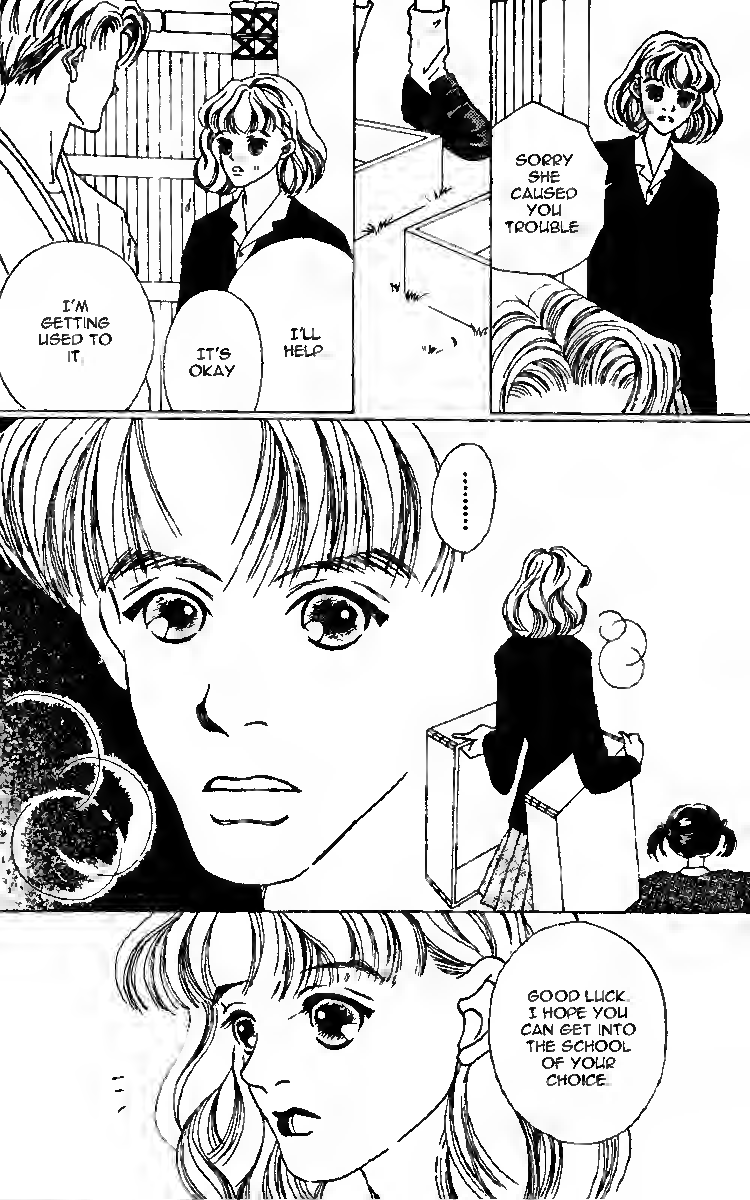
SHE'S ONLY TWO YEARS MY JUNIOR BUT LOOKS MUCH YOUNGER
HINA IS ABOUT TO TAKE AN ENTRANCE EXAM AND IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WANTS TO GO TO KOBE
BUT THE MADAM WOULDN'T WANT SUCH AN IMPORTANT DAUGHTER TO LIVE THAT FAR IT CAN'T BE HELPED
THE LAST GENERATION'S SUCCESSOR PASSED AWAY FIVE YEARS AGO. RIGHT NOW THERE IS ONLY THE MADAM AND HER THREE DAUGHTERS HERE.
Ah, I was caught
THE MADAM WILL SCOLD YOU AGAIN IF SHE FINDS OUT
OH, ARARE YOU'RE PLAYING WITH THE WAGASHI AGAIN

I'M SORRY, SEI-OUISAN PLEASE DON'T TELL MOM
I WON'T
AND YOU WON'T DO IT AGAIN?
WHO IS HE?
I'M ARARE NICE TO MEET YOU
HE'S THE SON OF SOMEONE I KNOW HE'LL BE A NEW TRAINEE HERE
I SEE
A PLACE FULL OF WOMEN
AND ..

ONLY THREE WORKERS
IS THIS REALLY THE FAMOUS FUKUYA'S ?
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB

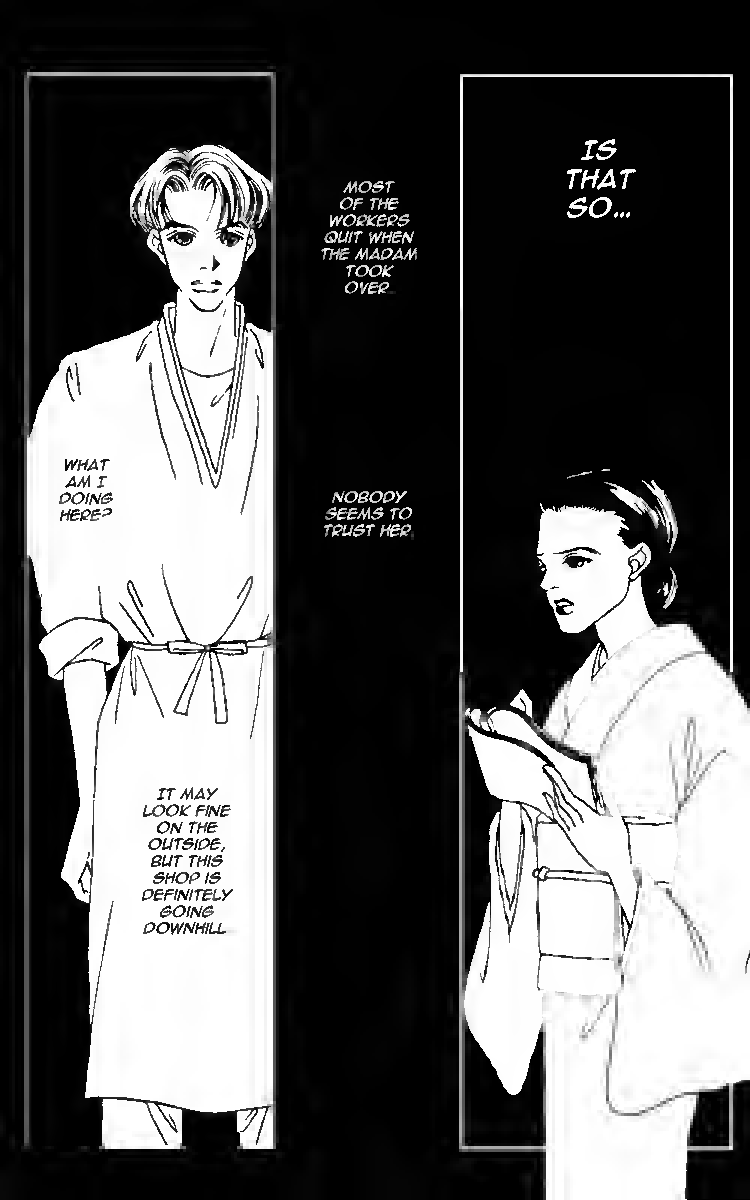
WHY IS IT SO COLD IN KYOTO?
KENJI, WHAT YOU CLEANED JUST NOW— REDO IT.
EH?
Clang

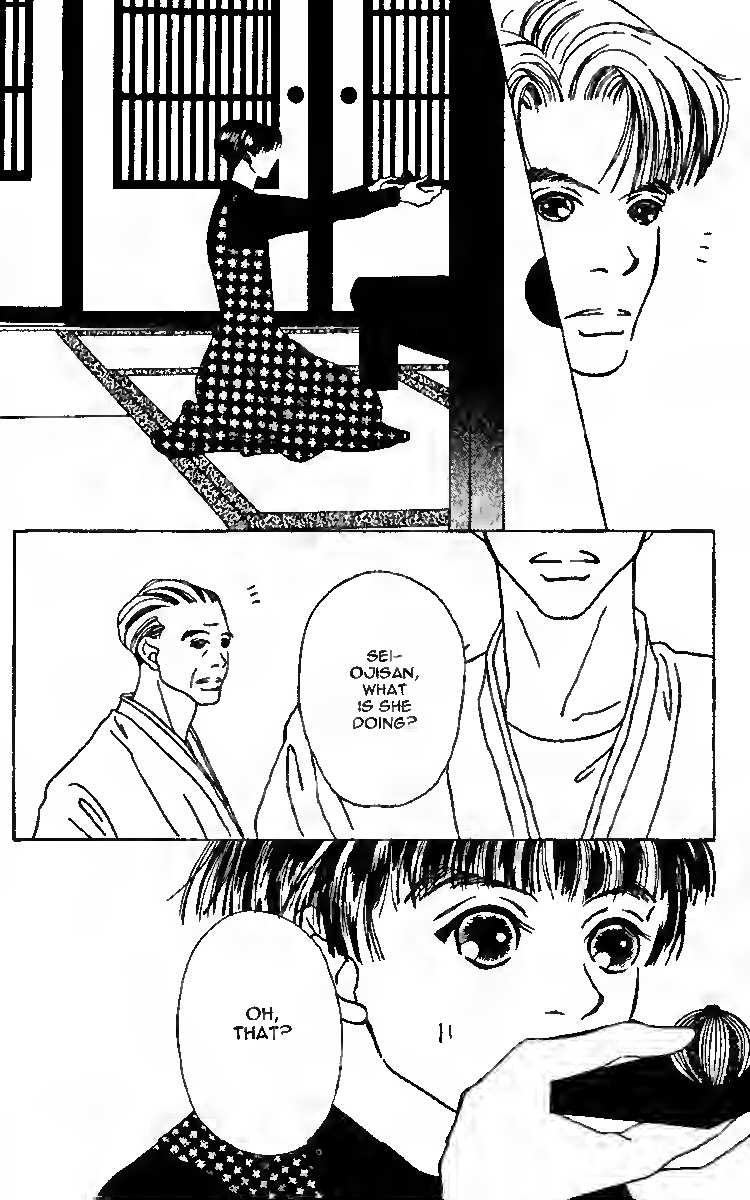
SCRUB
SCRUB
CLEANING
THEY KEEP MAKING ME CLEAN THESE THINGS
AH
clatter
clatter
clatter
UGH IT'S ALL DIRTY AGAIN
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

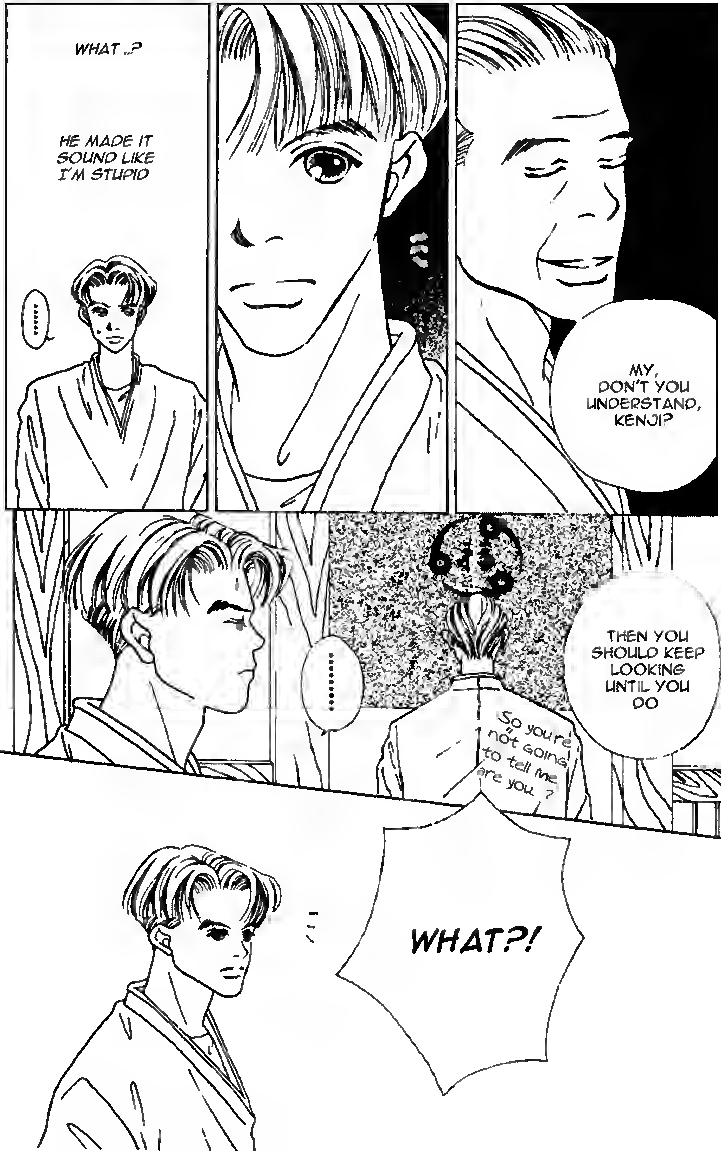

I'M GETTING USED TO IT
IT'S OKAY
I'LL HELP
SORRY SHE CAUSED YOU TROUBLE
.....
GOOD LUCK. I HOPE YOU CAN GET INTO THE SCHOOL OF YOUR CHOICE.

IF I'M SELFISH, MOM WILL BE UPSET
THE SHOP ALREADY HAS TOO MANY TROUBLES AS IT IS
THE SHOP IS IN TROUBLE?
THANKS BUT I HAVEN'T DECIDED WHICH ONE I'LL APPLY TO YET
ONLY THREE WORKERS
NOT MANY ORDERS COME IN
THE MADAM IS STILL IN HER THIRTIES
THE ORDER FROM SOUYA TEA OOUJOU
IS IT REALLY OKAY TO ACCEPT IT? I'M AFRAID THAT WITH THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE HAVE

.....
SINCE YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY SURE ABOUT THIS I CAN RELAX
DON'T WORRY
THE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT NOW. IF THEY KNEW HOW WE ARE DOING NOW, THEY MIGHT NOT TRUST US AGAIN
IT SHOULD BE FINE, MADAM THEY ORDERED THE SAME AMOUNT AS THEY DID LAST YEAR.
PLEASE DO YOUR BEST.
.....
THE OWNER PASSED AWAY LAST YEAR.


WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
MOST OF THE WORKERS QUIT WHEN THE MADAM TOOK OVER
NOBODY SEEMS TO TRUST HER
IT MAY LOOK FINE ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT THIS SHOP IS DEFINITELY GOING DOWNHILL
IS THAT SO...


SEI-OJISAN, WHAT IS SHE DOING?
OH, THAT?


WHAT ..?
HE MADE IT SOUND LIKE I'M STUPID
!!!!!
MY, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, KENJI?
THEN YOU SHOULD KEEP LOOKING UNTIL YOU DO
!!!!!
So you're not going to tell me are you..?
WHAT?!

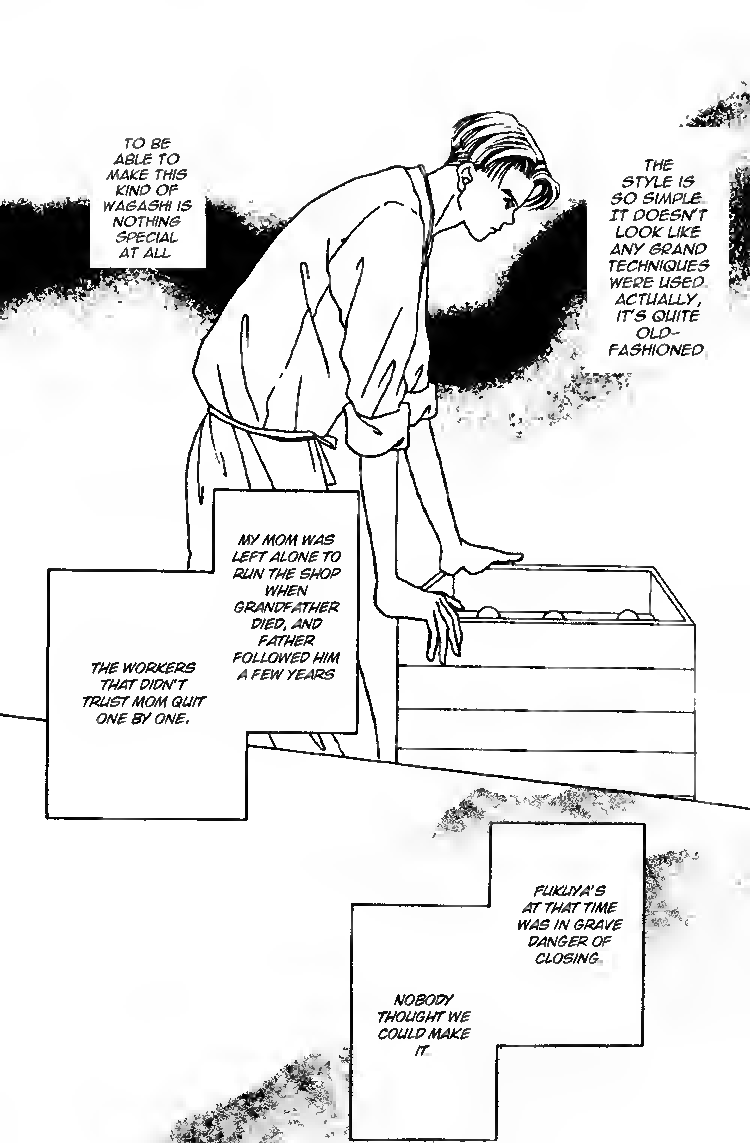
CANCELED?! WHY?! THE TEA CEREMONY IS TODAY.
HOW ARE THEY GOING TO FIND ANOTHER WAGASHI SHOP IN TIME? WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?!
LOOKS LIKE THEY PLACED AN ORDER WITH ANOTHER SHOP
THEY SAID THEY WILL PAY US, BUT THEY WANTED ME TO TAKE THE WAGASHI BACK.

.....
.....
CLENCH
RETURNING THE GOODS?
THIS IS A DIRECT INSULT TO FUKUYA'S
I don't want their money. Give it back!
And remember! We're not taking an order from the Bouya Tea doujou ever again!
Outrageous...

BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN?
BECAUSE I'M YOUNG? HOW RIDICULOUS!
ARARE-CHAN
LET'S GO PLAY INSIDE, HANA.
M'KAY.

Further Study Survey
2nd Choice
3rd Choice
Class...
Name...
SO THESE ARE THE WAGASHI MADE ESPECIALLY FOR THE TEA CEREMONY?
YEAH.
TEA CEREMONY'S WAGASHI?

THERE ARE MANY TEA DOUJOUS IN KYOTO, SO TEA CEREMONIES ARE HELD PRETTY FREQUENTLY.
THE WAGASHI USED IN A TEA CEREMONY ARE SPECIAL
IT TAKES AN ADEPT ARTISAN TO CONTINUE MAKING REFRESHING DESIGNS
I'VE COME ALL THE WAY TO KYOTO IN ORDER TO LEARN FROM THIS SHOP...


TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THIS KIND OF WAGASHI IS NOTHING SPECIAL AT ALL
THE STYLE IS SO SIMPLE IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY GRAND TECHNIQUES WERE USED. ACTUALLY, IT'S QUITE OLD-FASHIONED
MY MOM WAS LEFT ALONE TO RUN THE SHOP WHEN GRANDFATHER DIED, AND FATHER FOLLOWED HIM A FEW YEARS
THE WORKERS THAT DIDN'T TRUST MOM QUIT ONE BY ONE.
FUKUYA'S AT THAT TIME WAS IN GRAVE DANGER OF CLOSING.
NOBODY THOUGHT WE COULD MAKE IT

Sweet Wagashi & Bitter Matcha (Green Tea)

Fukuyadou Honpo
by YUCHI Yayomi

Scanned & Translated by : Chibiyo
Cleaned & Edited by : geishafr
Proof-read by : Maverick
Quality checked by : Zoo

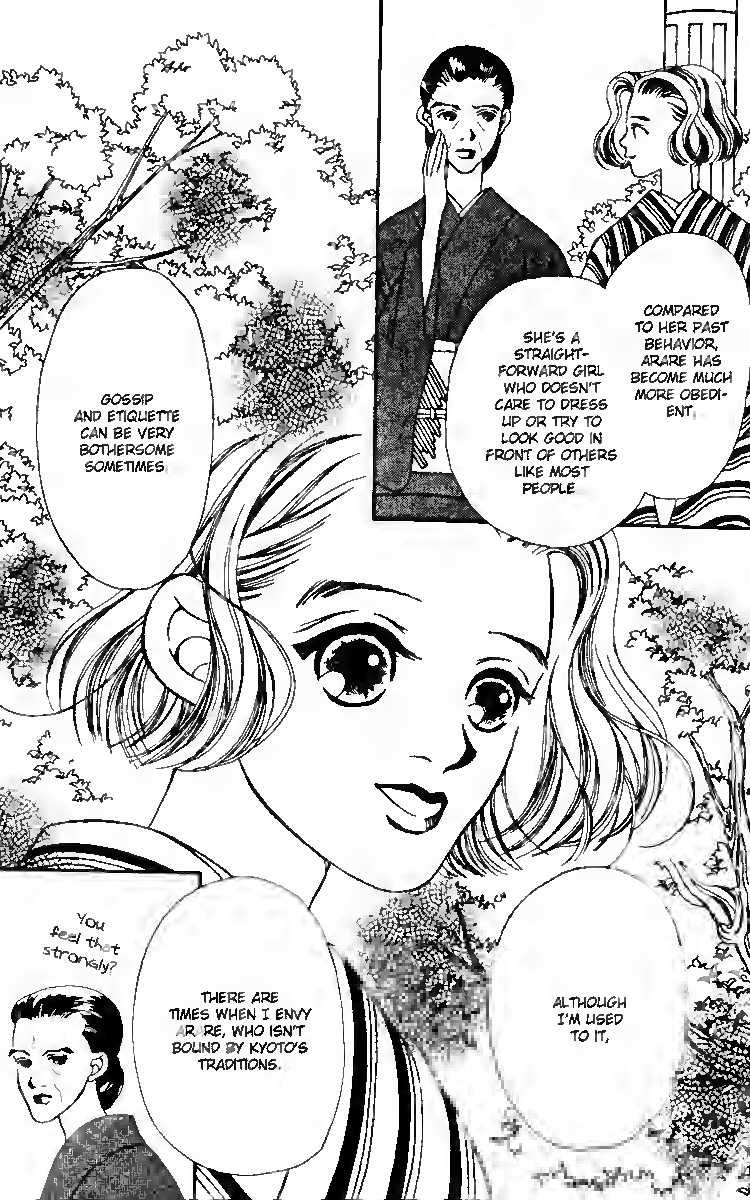
Fukuyadou Honpo
There are hailstorms in Kyoto too
(2)

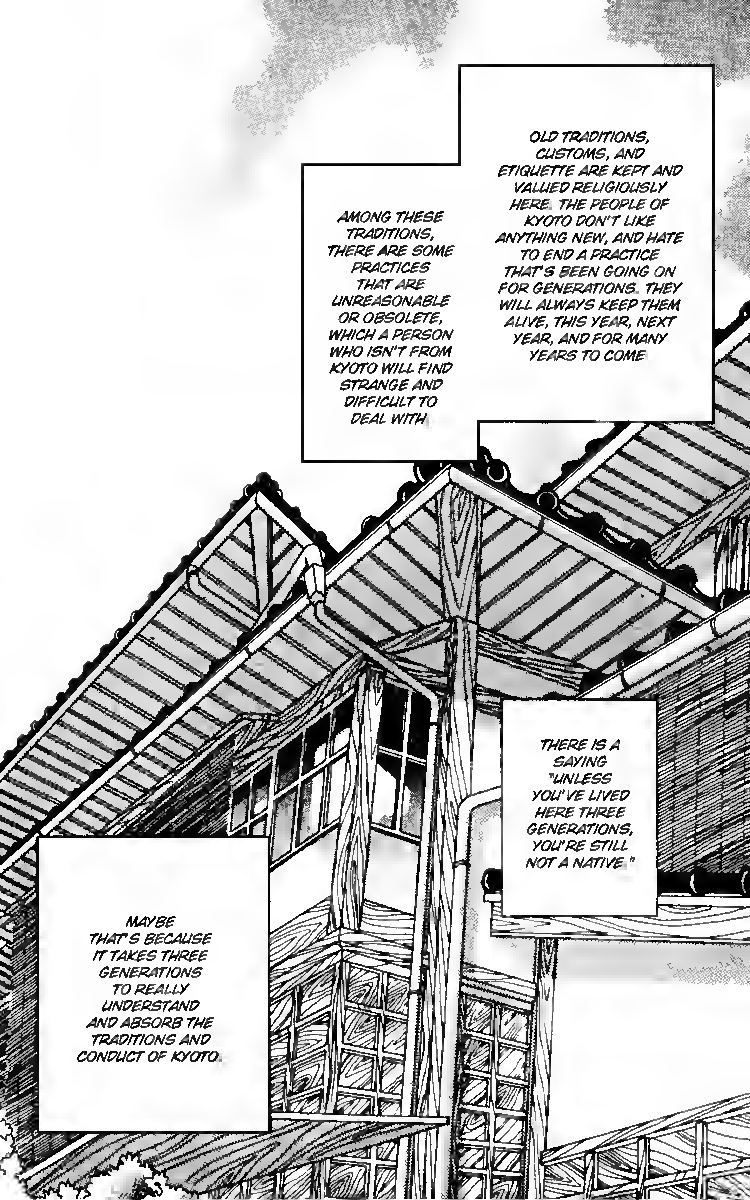
KENJI-SAN CAME TO FUKUYA'S NINE YEARS AGO.
MOM PLANNED ON HIM MARRYING ONEE-CHAN.
BUT SUDDENLY KENJI-SAN HAD TO GO BACK TO OSAKA
IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS SINCE HE LEFT
I HEARD THAT HINA-CHAN IS MARRYING HINOYAMA-SAN
EVERYONE KNEW THE NEWS EVEN BEFORE I DID. HOW EMBARRASSING
KIMI GA KOKUHAKU

KOMAKO-SAN. AREN'T WE CLOSE ACQUAINTANCES? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
BECAUSE IF I TOLD YOU, EVERYONE IN TOWN WOULD HAVE KNOWN IT BEFORE BREAKFAST.
BUT GOODNESS... YOU FINALLY RELEASED YOUR CLUTCH ON HINA-CHAN.
PEOPLE USED TO SAY THAT HINA-CHAN WOULD BE THE NEXT SUCCESSOR OF FUKUYA'S.
AND WASN'T IT YOU WHO SPREAD THAT RUMOR?
BUT WHAT A PITY... TO LOSE A DILIGENT, HARD-WORKING DAUGHTER LIKE HINA-CHAN TO ANOTHER HOUSE.
NOW PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT WHAT IS TO BECOME OF FUKUYA'S.
YOU....
RUMOR HAS IT THAT A YOUNG CHEF OF YOUR'S IS MISSING. DID SOMETHING
You don't have to hide it from me.

WingtipCafe.com

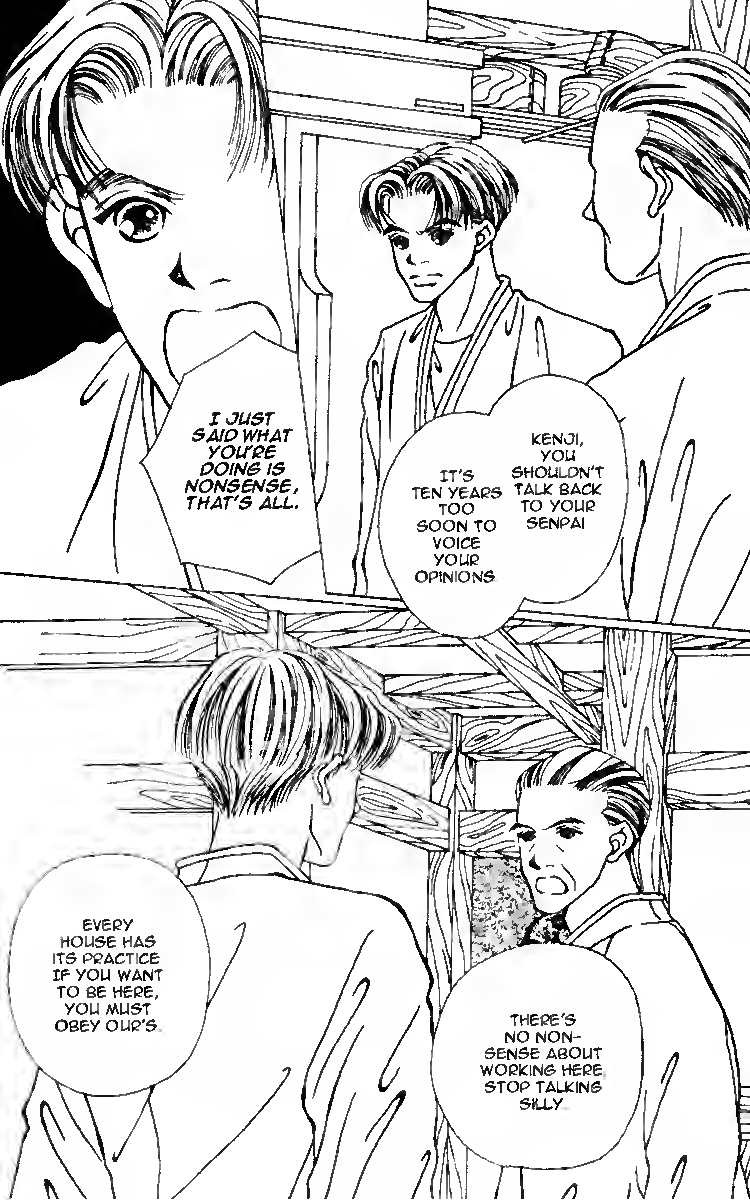
THE PEOPLE OF KYOTO LOVE GOSSIP, AND IT USUALLY REVOLVES AROUND THE ANCIENT SHOPS. PEOPLE WILL TALK ABOUT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING AS IF THEY WERE THE ONES WHO SAW IT WITH THEIR OWN EYES
THE GOSSIP NETWORKS HERE ARE NOTHING TO MESS AROUND WITH. ONE RUMOR CAN TRAVEL FASTER AND FARTHER THAN NEWS CAN ON TV OR IN THE PAPERS. IT'S VERY FRIGHTENING SOMETIMES
MOM DOESN'T WANT TOO MANY PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR SHOP. NOT JUST BECAUSE SHE IS PRIDEFUL, BUT ALSO BECAUSE SHE'S CONCERNED ABOUT THE REPUTATION OF THE SHOP AND HER DAUGHTERS
WE'RE ONLY MISSING ONE WORKER
AND PEOPLE ARE ALREADY TALKING.


COMPARED TO HER PAST BEHAVIOR, ARARE HAS BECOME MUCH MORE OBEDIENT.
SHE'S A STRAIGHT-FORWARD GIRL WHO DOESN'T CARE TO DRESS UP OR TRY TO LOOK GOOD IN FRONT OF OTHERS LIKE MOST PEOPLE
GOSSIP AND ETIQUETTE CAN BE VERY BOTHERSOME SOMETIMES.
ALTHOUGH I'M USED TO IT,
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I ENVY ARARE, WHO ISN'T BOUND BY KYOTO'S TRADITIONS.
You feel that strongly?


OLD TRADITIONS, CUSTOMS, AND ETIQUETTE ARE KEPT AND VALUED RELIGIOUSLY HERE. THE PEOPLE OF KYOTO DON'T LIKE ANYTHING NEW, AND HATE TO END A PRACTICE THAT'S BEEN GOING ON FOR GENERATIONS. THEY WILL ALWAYS KEEP THEM ALIVE, THIS YEAR, NEXT YEAR, AND FOR MANY YEARS TO COME
AMONG THESE TRADITIONS, THERE ARE SOME PRACTICES THAT ARE UNREASONABLE OR OBSOLETE, WHICH A PERSON WHO ISN'T FROM KYOTO WILL FIND STRANGE AND DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH
THERE IS A SAYING "UNLESS YOU'VE LIVED HERE THREE GENERATIONS, YOU'RE STILL NOT A NATIVE."
MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE IT TAKES THREE GENERATIONS TO REALLY UNDERSTAND AND ABSORB THE TRADITIONS AND CONDUCT OF KYOTO.

YOU KEEP TELLING ME TO WASH THEM OVER AND OVER. HOW MANY TIMES WILL IT TAKE TO SATISFY YOU?!
THEREFORE, IT'S NATURAL THAT A PERSON FRESHLY OUT OF OSAKA, LIKE KENJI-SAN, WOULD WANT TO REBEL AGAINST KYOTO'S WAYS OF DOING THINGS
CHAPTER
WHEN I TELL YOU TO WASH THEM, YOU WASH THEM
WHEN I TELL YOU "ENOUGH", YOU CAN STOP

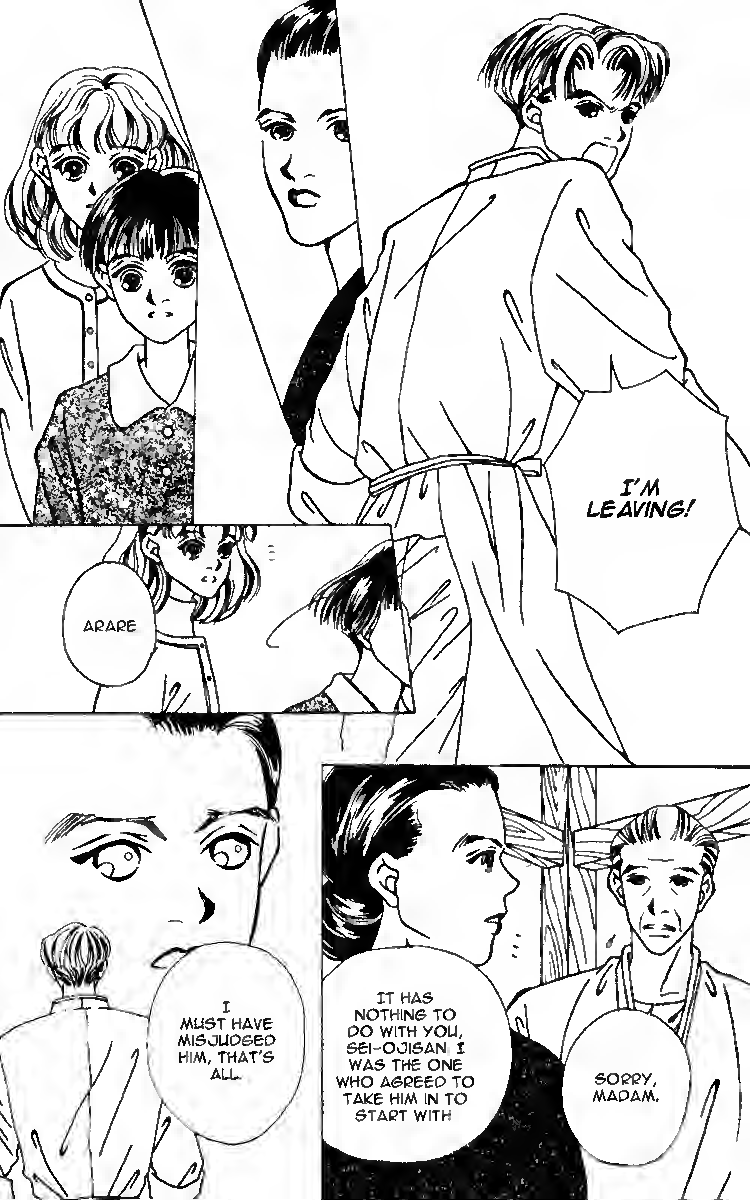
STOP BEING UNREASON ABLE!
WHAT'S WITH YOUR ATTITUDE?
IF I DID SOMETHING WRONG, JUST TELL ME DIRECTLY.
YOUR BEHAVIOR IS THAT OF AN UNCOUTH PERSON WHO DOES THINGS HALF-HEARTEDLY WITH NO SKILLS
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT? IT'S LOUD ENOUGH TO UPSET THE CUSTOMERS


I JUST SAID WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS NONSENSE, THAT'S ALL.
KENJI, YOU SHOULDN'T TALK BACK TO YOUR SENPAI
IT'S TEN YEARS TOO SOON TO VOICE YOUR OPINIONS
EVERY HOUSE HAS ITS PRACTICE IF YOU WANT TO BE HERE, YOU MUST OBEY OUR'S.
THERE'S NO NON-SENSE ABOUT WORKING HERE. STOP TALKING SILLY

ALL YOU CAN DO IS MAKE WAGASHI THAT IS RETURNED BY THE CUSTOMERS.
WHAT PRACTICE?
THIS KIND OF PLACE
ARE THEY FOR REAL? IT'S NOT THE FEUDAL ERA ANYMORE.
UNDERSTAND, KENJI?
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT...?
YOU SHOULD BE THANKFUL
HAVING SOMEONE TO TEACH YOU IS A BLESSING

HOW CAN I LIVE IN THIS KIND OF PLACE?!
I QUIT.
GO AHEAD.

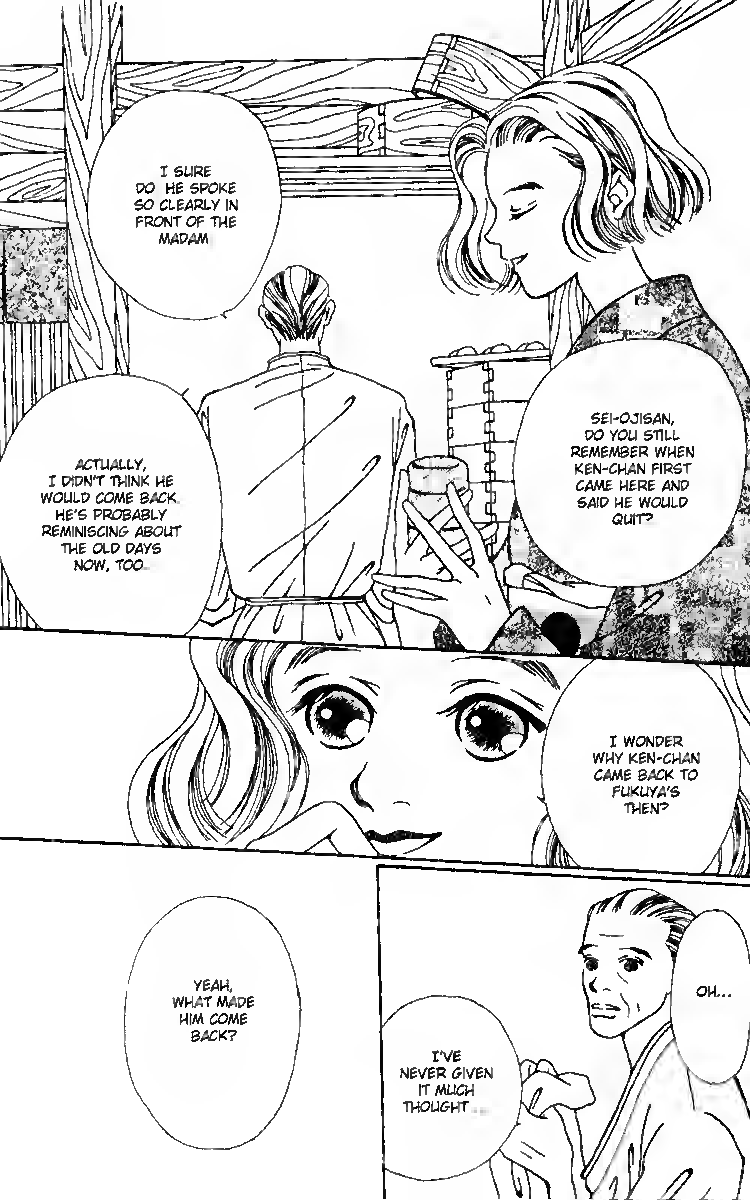
IF YOU CAN'T ACCEPT HOW WE DO THINGS HERE,
THEN GET OUT I'M NOT STOPPING YOU
WE'RE NOT LOSING ANYTHING WITHOUT YOU AROUND
AN AMATEUR LIKE YOU IS TOTALLY REPLACEABLE
DON T THINK YOU'RE SO IMPORTANT
AND AREN'T YOU JUST A SHOP WHO ONLY HAS A NAME TO RELY ON?!


I'M LEAVING!
ARARE
I MUST HAVE MISJUDGED HIM, THAT'S ALL.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, SEI-OJISAN. I WAS THE ONE WHO AGREED TO TAKE HIM IN TO START WITH
SORRY, MADAM.

I'M LEAVING
COMING HERE IS A WASTE OF TIME.
WAIT!
DON'T GO.
PLEASE
OUR SHOP IS IN REALLY BIG TROUBLE.

ACTUALLY, MOM IS VERY WORRIED
THE WAY THE CUSTOMERS TREAT US, HOW THE WORKERS QUIT
LET GO
I'M GOING BACK TO OSAKA
ONLY SEI-OJISAN AND ANOTHER ONE REMAIN IF THIS CONTINUES, WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT.
EVERY-ONE IS LEAVING.
NO, YOU DON'T GET IT.
IT'S NOT GOING TO FEEL A THING LOSING A TRAINEE LIKE ME.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOUR SHOP HAS BEEN HERE FOR 400 YEARS

HMM... IT'S BEEN NINE YEARS.
TIME FLEW SO FAST.
RIGHT.
I'M GETTING OLD.
HINA-CHAN IS ABOUT TO BE SOMEONE ELSE'S BRIDE.


I SURE DO. HE SPOKE SO CLEARLY IN FRONT OF THE MADAM
SEI-OJISAN, DO YOU STILL REMEMBER WHEN KEN-CHAN FIRST CAME HERE AND SAID HE WOULD QUIT?
ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD COME BACK. HE'S PROBABLY REMINISCING ABOUT THE OLD DAYS NOW, TOO...
I WONDER WHY KEN-CHAN CAME BACK TO FUKUYA'S THEN?
YEAH, WHAT MADE HIM COME BACK?
OH...
I'VE NEVER GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT...

YOUR FAVORITE SHOW IS ON.
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU CAN'T SLEEP WITHOUT WATCHING IT?
ARARE-CHAN
WILL THE CHAMPION DEFEAT THE CHALLENGERS TODAY?
lifeless
There! Look! Look!
WOW, THE CHALLENGERS TODAY ARE ALL HOT.
I don't know which one to root for
WILL HE BE ABLE TO DEFEND HIS STATUS?
.....

R
R
R
R
ARARE-CHAN
KENJI-SAN LEFT FOR HOME THREE WEEKS AGO.
ARARE HAS BEEN LIKE THIS EVER SINCE HE LEFT
HELLO!
ONEE-CHAN, THERE'S AN ORDER.
And why didn't you take it?
TOSS
.....

AH.
R
R
R
R
EH
OO
PICKS UP
FUKUYA'S
AH, KEN-CHAN

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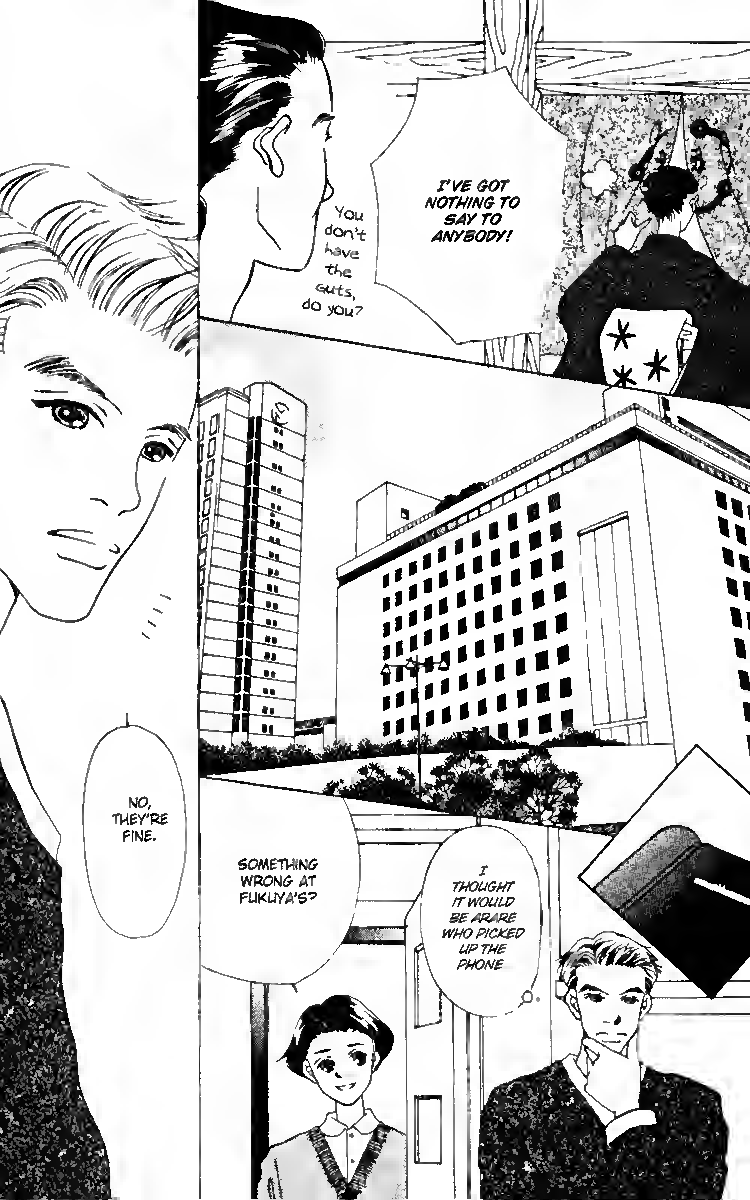
Aah
CLACK
MOM, SERIOUSLY, YOU...
GRIND
WHAT? ARARE, DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO KEN-CHAN?
OH, DEAR.
IF YOU DO, WHY DON'T YOU CALL HIM YOURSELF?
Here. Take it.
HMPH.

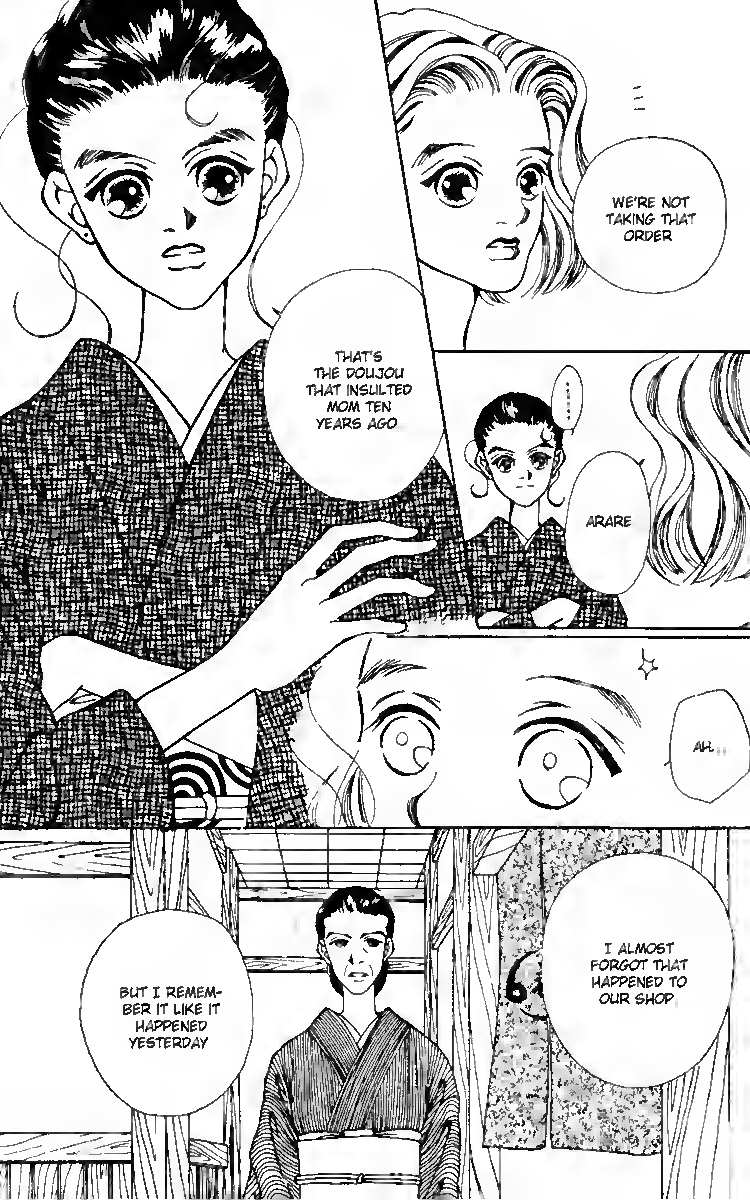

I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY TO ANYBODY!
You don't have the guts, do you?
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ARARE WHO PICKED UP THE PHONE
SOMETHING WRONG AT FUKUYA'S?
NO, THEY'RE FINE.

I FEEL KINDA GUILTY TOWARD FUKUYA'S, HAVING YOU TAKE A LONG BREAK LIKE THIS...
IS THAT SO.
LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVE THE SHOP UNDER CONTROL EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT THERE
ITS OKAY, ONEE-SAN.
ACTUALLY, YOUR BROTHER'S CONDITION ISN'T THAT SERIOUS BUT I STILL CALLED YOU BACK. SORRY.
WE'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE YOU BACK HOME WITH US.
BUT THIS IS ABOUT TIME.

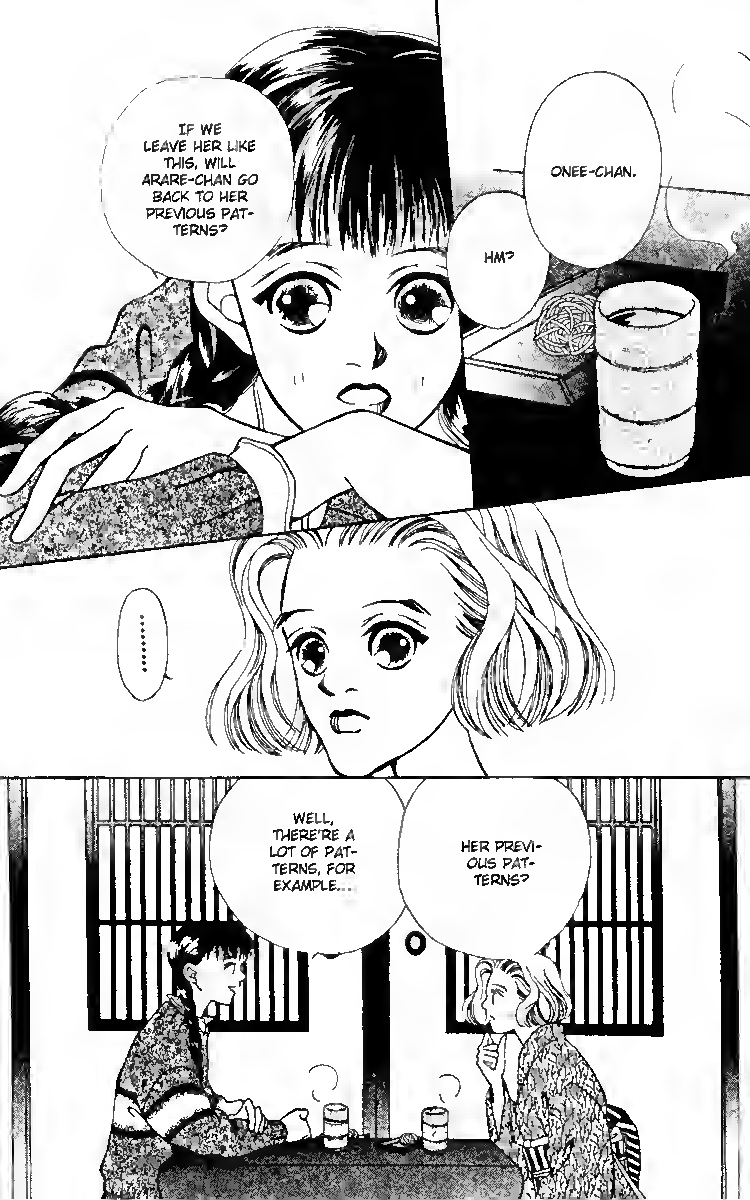
ARE YOU DONE WITH FUKUYA'S NOW?
!
YES.

ARARE, WHERE'S SEI-OJISAN?
LOOKS LIKE THE BOUYA TEA DOUJOU IS HAVING A BIG CELEBRATION.
HE'S BUSY WITH THE TEA CEREMONY WAGASHI DID WE GET ANOTHER ORDER?
OH, SUGI, CAN WE DO A 50 BOX-SET OF NAMAGASHI* BY NEXT WEDNESDAY?
YEAH, THERE IS A LARGE ORDER OF 50 BOX-SETS TO BE GIVEN OUT AS GIFTS
I WANT TO ASK SEI-OJISAN IF WE'RE FREE TO DO IT
I THINK WE CAN

T/N: namagashi* = A type of wagashi usually used in tea ceremony


WE'RE NOT TAKING THAT ORDER
THAT'S THE DOUJOU THAT INSULTED MOM TEN YEARS AGO
.....
ARARE
AH...
I ALMOST FORGOT THAT HAPPENED TO OUR SHOP.
BUT I REMEMBER IT LIKE IT HAPPENED YESTERDAY

WE'LL NEVER ACCEPT AN ORDER FROM SOMEONE WHO LOOKED DOWN ON MOM
SORRY, I FORGOT I'LL FIND AN EXCUSE TO REFUSE THEM.
I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU.
Why do I have to know about such ancient history?
Gosh, 20 more boxes of this
.....


ONEE-CHAN.
HM?
IF WE LEAVE HER LIKE THIS, WILL ARARE-CHAN GO BACK TO HER PREVIOUS PATTERNS?
.....
HER PREVIOUS PATTERNS?
WELL, THERE'RE A LOT OF PATTERNS, FOR EXAMPLE...

Wake up at noon
Wake up at noon
Hmm
OR SOMETIMES ...
Go to the horse track
Go Go!
Clop-- Clop--
Play pachinko
cha la la la
cha la la la
Throw tantrums
Calm down, girl
I can't stay calm anymore! Stupid horse! Why didn't you win, why?!
Throw tantrums
Damnit!
I've been playing you stupid pachinko machine! Why can't I? Give me back my money!
GONG GONG GONG GONG
Drink
Today is so boring. I was so sure I would win. Why can't my luck turn for once?!
Wahh.. I shouldn't have bet on that one. What a bad
Drink
Well... just let it go
Gosh, you lost that much to pachinko machines?

Even betting on horses is a failure.
My luck is so terrible lately

Nobody knew where she went all day and she didn't come home at night.
OR SOMETHING LIKE THIS
DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN ALL THE TIME?
Why didn't I notice?
YEAH. ARARE-CHAN OFTEN THREW FITS AT PACHINKO PARLORS. SHE GOT INTO FIGHTS MANY TIMES TOO
not to mention several incidents at the bars
SHE WAS LIKE THAT IN HER COLLEGE DAYS AND SINCE THEN, TOO

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I'VE NEVER
HANA
TOLD THIS TO ANYONE
I'M VERY WORRIED SINCE KENJI-SAN IS GONE
IF THIS GOES ON, ARARE-CHAN MIGHT GO BACK TO THE WAY SHE WAS
HE THINKS OF ME AS A FRIEND, SO HE OFTEN TELLS ME A LOT OF THINGS...
BUT HE KEPT HESITATING
ACTUALLY, KEN-CHAN'S FAMILY HAS TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM TO GO HOME COUNT-LESS TIMES

ARARE-CHAN...
MAYBE IT WAS THE START
THAT MADE KEN-CHAN DECIDE TO LEAVE
JUST THE TWO OF YOU DRINKING TEA, HUH?
HANA, GET ME A CUP
Make it hot

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sigh
RIGHT
Pop
SIGH—
EVEN IF KEN-CHAN DOESN'T COME BACK, OUR SHOP HAS NO PROBLEM.
ISN'T IT STRANGE HOW KEN-CHAN ONLY CONFIDED SOMETHING LIKE THIS WITH ONEE-CHAN?
I'm relieved I thought she'd be devastated.
Ah.
HANA.

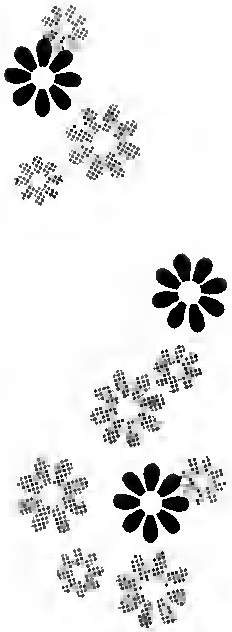
HANA, YOU JUST MADE A BIG MISTAKE
OH GOD
ARARE-CHAN, YOUR TEA
SLAP

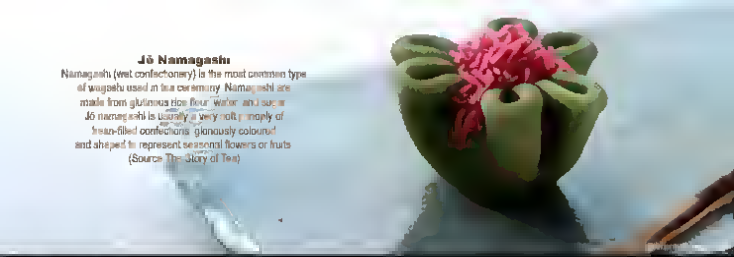
ARARE-CHAN, I... I'M SORRY...

HANA, LET HER GO
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU SAY TO HER NOW...
ARARE-CHAN!
.....
KEN-CHAN'S FAMILY HAS TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM TO GO HOME COUNTLESS TIMES.
MAYBE IT WAS THE START THAT MADE KEN-CHAN DECIDED TO LEAVE FUKUYA'S.
SLAM

HE MIGHT NOT COME BACK AGAIN.
HE MIGHT LEAVE FUKUYA'S FOR REAL.
NO...
WHAT DO I DO?

KEN-CHAN—





Jō Namagashi

Namagashi (wet confectionery) is the most common type of wagashi used in tea ceremony. Namagashi are made from glutinous rice flour, water, and sugar. Jō namagashi is usually a very soft jelly of bean-filled confections, gloriously coloured and shaped to represent seasonal flowers or fruits. (Source: The Story of Tea)

Presents you...

Hompo

Yayomi

Scanned & Translated by : Chihaya
Cleaned & Edited by : galdhair
Proof-read by : Maverick
Quality checked by : Zen

Fukuyadou Honpo
There are hail storms in Kyoto too (3)

WAHHH
WAHHH
HANA, IT'S NO USE CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF
BUT FOR FIVE YEAR OLD HANA, IT WAS
FOR SOMEONE WHO HAD TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF FROM THE BEGINNING, THIS WASN'T A BIG DEAL

HEY, HANA, WHAT'S UP? YOU CRIED SO MUCH YOUR FACE IS ALL RED.
I FEEL BAD FOR ONEE-CHAN. SHE S ALWAYS HAD TO DO EVERYTHING FOR HERSELF SINCE SHE WAS YOUNG BE-CAUSE OUR PAR-ENTS WERE BUSY.
THE PERSON WHO TOOK CARE OF ME WASN'T ONEE-CHAN BUT ARARE
Tasle rara
COME, LET ME WIPE IT OFF FOR YOU. STOP CRY-ING. LET'S GO PLAY A GAME.
Those two!
WE'VE BEEN ON THE SAME WAVE LENGTH IN TERMS OF MAKING MISCHIEF.
I ENDED UP CLEANING UP THEIR MESS AFTER ALL.

Class 3/2
THAT'S WHY I FOUGHT WITH ARARE SO OFTEN, TOO
EH. . .? FUKUYOSHI FORGOT TO PREPARE HER HOMEWORK? HOW STRANGE
THE ENTRANCE EXAM IS COMING SOON, YOU SHOULD CONCENTRATE. SIT DOWN.
EVER SINCE THAT DAY, ARARE HASN'T SPOKEN TO ME
I KNOW IT'S THE PRICE I PAY FOR TALKING WITHOUT THINKING AND HURTING HER FEELINGS.
.....
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EXPOWORLD AMUSEMENT PARK?
YEAH, YOU LOOK DOWN LATELY LET'S GO HAVE SOME FUN
EXPOWORLD IS IN OSAKA, RIGHT?
IORI-KUN, DO YOU KNOW OSAKA WELL?
I think JUST THE INTERIM...
Honestly I just want to ask her out on a date.
TURN
IORI-KUN!
Y...YES!
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO JUST THE INTERIM. PLEASE BRING ME TO DOWNTOWN OSAKA.

YES—!!
Y...
UMEDA DISTRICT, OSAKA
U... UHHH
OSAKA MAP
IORI-KUN.
Erm
AND WHERE IS THIS PLACE?!
WHICH ONE IS THE TANIMACHI -LINE?

OSAKA IS A BIG, COMPETITIVE CITY
I'LL ASK SOMEONE
YOU CAN HEAR A LOT OF NOISES BUZZING ABOUT ALL THE TIME. IT'S A METROPOLITAN CITY FULL OF HUSTLE AND BUSTLE
EVERYONE WALKS SO FAST
Excuse me. Could you tell me how to go to Shitennouji temple, please?
IT'S A CITY THAT IS READY TO ACCEPT NEW THINGS AND PRODUCE ANY-THING
IT'S REALLY A PLACE OF TRUE ENTERTAINING DELIGHTS
ICHINTAI
BUSINESS MEN AND GOURMETS SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO LOSE THEMSELVES IN THIS CITY

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
STOP FOLLOWING ME.
STOP FOLLOWING ME.
I SAID "STOP FOL-LOWING ME."

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IF YOU QUIT, EVERYONE WILL BE IN TROUBLE
YOU'RE SO PERSIST-ENT
THAT DOESN'T CONCERN ME. SAVE IT
I ONLY CAME TO KYOTO TO LEARN SOME TECHNIQUES
BUT THERE'S NOTHING I WANT TO LEARN FROM THAT SHOP
THE METHOD IS ORDINARY EVEN THE CUSTOMERS LOOK DOWN ON THEM
INCLUDING YOU AS WELL, RIGHT?

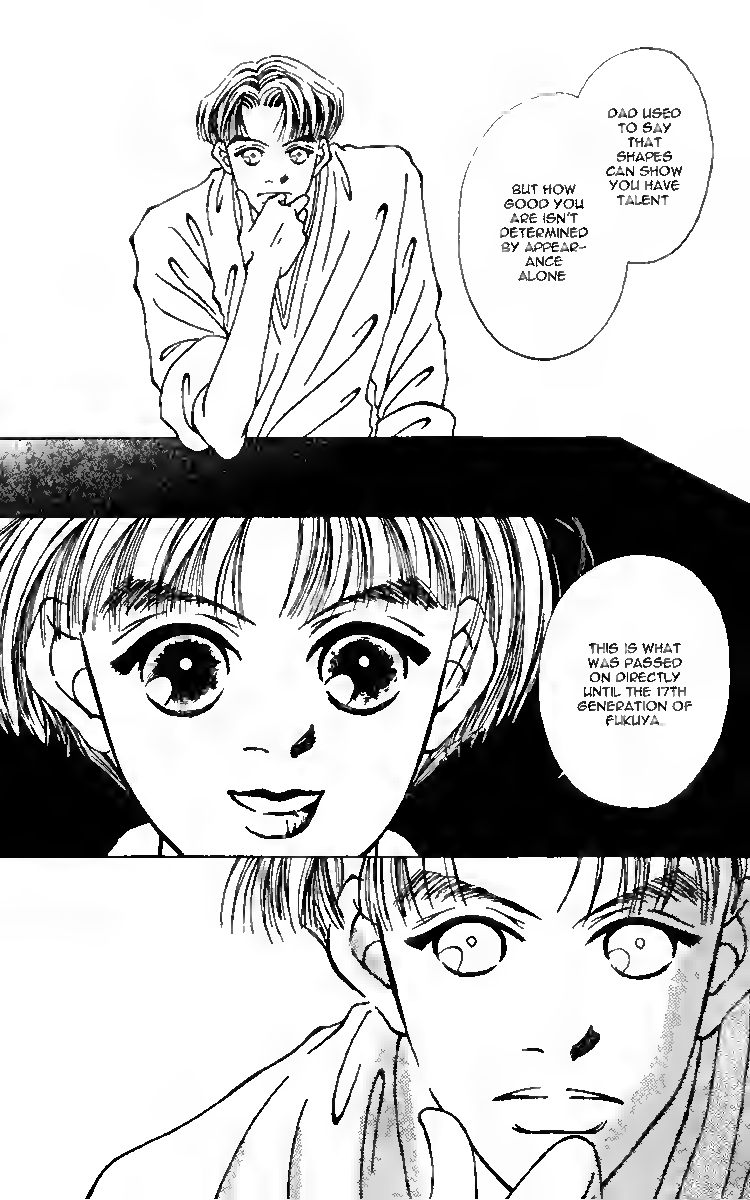
GO ANYWHERE YOU WANT THE WAGASHI SEI-OUJISAN MAKES ARE SUPER AWESOME, I TELL YOU
DON'T BRING THE CUSTOMERS IN YOU'RE THE ONE WHO IS LOOKING DOWN ON FUKUYA'S
YOU'LL NEVER FIND A WAGASHI THAT AWESOME ANY-WHERE ELSE
AND THE COLOR IS WELL-DONE
THANKS
THE SHAPE IS GOOD

AH...
YOU'LL NEVER FIND A WAGASHI THAT AWESOME ANYWHERE ELSE...
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND,
KENJI?
!

ARARE-CHAN.
I DON'T WANNA MAKE SNOWMEN ANYMORE. LET'S GO INSIDE.
It's cold too.
YOU GO AHEAD
I WANT TO STAY HERE FOR A WHILE
OKAY
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS SO GREAT ABOUT YOUR WAGASHI, ANYWAY?

THIS LAME WAGASHI AGAIN?
IT'S ON SALE IN THE SHOP TOO. TODAY IS A GOOD DAY FOR A TEA CEREMONY
HERE, LOOK
FINE. MOM WON'T BE HERE WHEN THE SHOP IS OPEN.
SPEAKING OF WAGASHI FOR TEA CEREMONY, ITS ROLE IS TO COMPLIMENT THE TASTE OF THE TEA
EVEN SO, THE WAGASHI ITSELF NEEDS NOT TO BE SO STRIKING OR OUTSHINING THE TEA
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GLAMOROUS WAGASHI OR FANCY TECHNIQUES,
YOU WON'T FIND IT HERE AT FUKUYA'S.

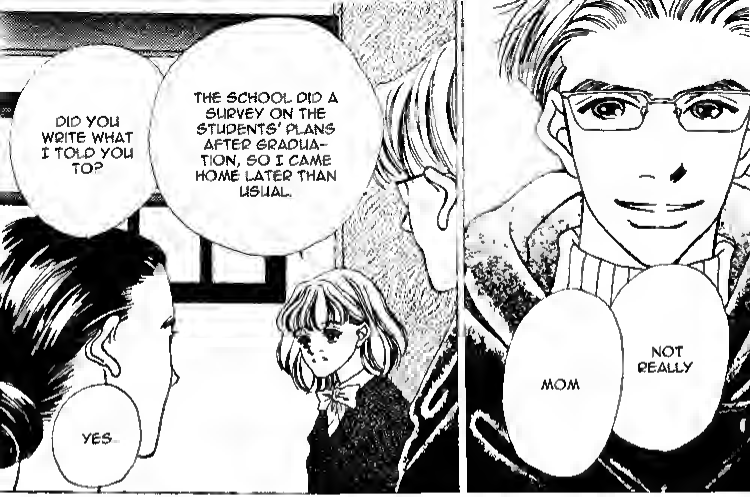
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN A TEA CEPEMONY IS PEACE OF MIND
IF YOU SERVE FANCY WAGASHI WITH FLAMBOYANT COLORS IT WILL CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE ATTENDANTS, AND THEY WILL LOSE THEIR PEACE OF MIND
AT FIRST GLANCE, SEI-OJISAN'S WA-GASHI MAY NOT LOOK LIKE ANY-THING SPECIAL, BUT WHEN YOU PLACE IT LIKE THIS IT GIVES OFF A COM-PLETELY DIFFER-ENT FEELING, RIGHT?
YOU BEGIN TO FEEL CALM JUST BY LOOKING AT IT.
I SEE. WHEN YOU PLACE IT ON A TRAY, IT DOES LOOK DIFFERENT THAN WHEN IT'S KEPT TOGETHER IN A DELIVERY BOX
YES, IF YOU PUT MANY OF THIS WAGASHI TO-GETHER IN A BOX, THEY WOULD LOOK LIKE SIMPLE WAGASHI WITH NOTHING SPECIAL AT ALL.
YOU PROBABLY THINK THAT GOOD CRAFTSMANSHIP CAN BE SHOWN THROUGH SHAPES ONLY
THAT'S SEI-OJISAN'S "ARTISAN-SHIP"
THEY REALLY DO


DAD USED TO SAY THAT SHAPES CAN SHOW YOU HAVE TALENT
BUT HOW GOOD YOU ARE ISN'T DETERMINED BY APPEAR-ANCE ALONE
THIS IS WHAT WAS PASSED ON DIRECTLY UNTIL THE 17TH GENERATION OF FUKUYA.

ARE YOU GOING TO INSULT OUR SHOP EVER AGAIN?
DO YOU STILL THINK OUR WAGASHI L- CK CHARM?
THAT MOMENT
WAS A TRIUMPH THAT EVEN TODAY'S ARARE CAN'T FATHOM.
I WON'T INSULT THEM ANYMORE.
SLIDE

I'M SORRY FOR MY RUDE BE-HAVIOR
I'LL RESUME MY WORK IMMEDI-ATELY.
MADAM
YES?
I SEE I'LL BE RIGHT OUT
HINOYAMA-SAN IS BUSY HE SENT HIS GRANDSON
It's super awesome really
GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE

WE JUST GOSSIPED ABOUT YOU
ARARE, WHAT DID YOU TALK TO HIM ABOUT?
HMM?
OH_ HINOYAMA-SAN. IT'S BEEN A WHILE ARE YOUR STUDIES GOING WELL?
THEY ARE THANK YOU VERY MUCH
HOW WONDER-FUL. YOU WILL START TAKING OVER THE BUSI-NESS VERY SOON, WON'T YOU?


DID YOU WRITE WHAT I TOLD YOU TO?
THE SCHOOL DID A SURVEY ON THE STUDENTS' PLANS AFTER GRADUATION, SO I CAME HOME LATER THAN USUAL.
YES.
MOM
NOT REALLY

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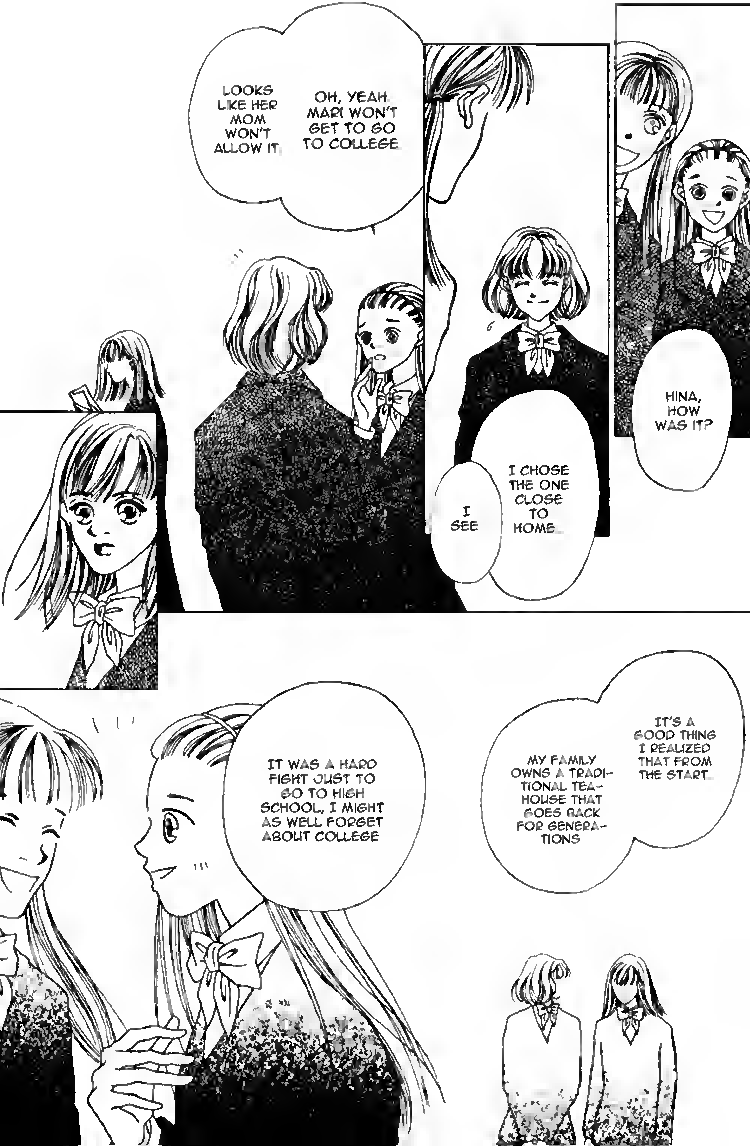
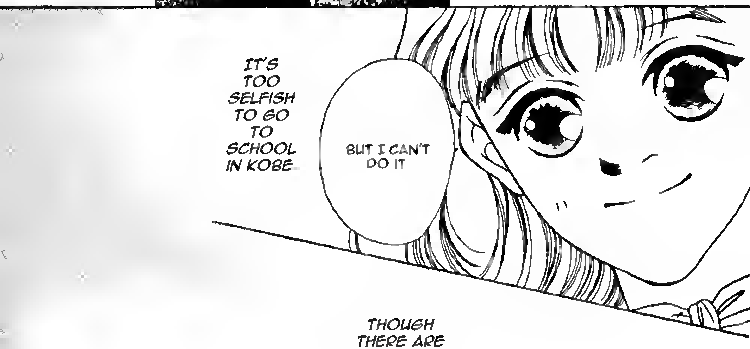
AREN'T YOU SARCASTIC
LET ME GUESS YOU'LL START WORKING IN ONE OF YOUR GRANDFATHER'S COMPANIES, RIGHT? OR MAYBE YOUR MOTHER'S?
BUT LIFE IS GOING TO BE EASY FOR YOU ANYWAY, BEING A SON OF THE K-GROUP
I PITY THE FAMILY THAT WILL BE AN IN-L W TO TH T OBSTINATE OLD MAN
AND GET MARRIED
AFTER THAT YOU'LL FIND A GIRL FROM A GOOD FAMILY
BACK THEN
THESE TWO HAD ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA THAT IN NINE YEARS THEY WOULD BECOME THE SAME IN-LAWS


LOOKS LIKE HER MOM WON'T ALLOW IT
OH, YEAH. MARI WON'T GET TO GO TO COLLEGE
HINA, HOW WAS IT?
I CHOSE THE ONE CLOSE TO HOME
I SEE
IT'S A GOOD THING I REALIZED THAT FROM THE START
MY FAMILY OWNS A TRADITIONAL TEA-HOUSE THAT GOES BACK FOR GENERATIONS
IT WAS A HARD FIGHT JUST TO GO TO HIGH SCHOOL, I MIGHT AS WELL FORGET ABOUT COLLEGE

YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN
PARENTS SEEM TO THINK THAT A DAUGHTER'S ONLY DUTY IS TO SACRIFICE HER LIFE FOR HER FAMILY
HOW ABOUT YOU? DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE REBELLING SOMETIMES?
I KNOW I DON'T HAVE THE SAME CHANCES OTHER PEOPLE DO. BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED. I HAVE TO BE A GEIKO* SOON
THE SOONER I'M OVER IT, THE BETTER
T/N: Geiko*—Kyoto geisha



THOUGH THERE ARE TIMES I WISH I COULD RUN AWAY FROM HOME.

YOU PROBABLY DON'T LIKE ME MUCH
WE LACK WORKERS HERE. CLEANING IS A BORING JOB. BUT SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT
I'M NOT FROM KYOTO EITHER
BUT WASHING THE EQUIPMENT CARELESSLY THAT WAY IS UNACCEPTABLE. THAT'S WHY WE DID THAT TO YOU. IT'S THE WAY WE DO THINGS HERE
I'M NOT THAT THRILLED WITH IT EITHER, YOU KNOW
I'M SORRY.

YOU'D BETTER DRY THEM WHERE THE WIND IS STRONG.

SE!-OJISAN
DO YOU KNOW WHAT SHE'S DOING?
SHE'S TALKING TO THE WAGASHI
CAREFULLY EXAMINING THE COLOR, THE SHAPE AND THE TASTE.
EVERY TIME I SEE HER DOING THAT,
I FEEL THAT IT'S A TEST OF MY WA-GASHI-MAK-ING SKILL.

WHEN THE MASTER OF THE SHOP CHANGED HANDS, DIDN'T YOU WANT TO LEAVE AT ALL?
IT'D BE SHAMEFUL TO LET HER CATCH ANY IMPERFECTIONS IF I DO THINGS HALF-HEARTEDLY
BOTH ARARE-CHAN AND HINA-CHAN ARE SUCH WONDERFUL DAUGHTERS OF THIS HOUSE
I'VE BEEN HERE SINCE THE LAST GENERATION
THE SITUATION MAY SEEM TOUGH BUT LOOKING BACK AT FUKUYA'S LONG HISTORY THERE MUST HAVE BEEN WORSE TIMES BEFORE
NOW THAT MADAM IS ALL ALONE, THE SHOP IS IN TROUBLE. HOW COULD I JUST STAND THERE AND WATCH WHEN I SEE HOW HARD SHE'S WORKING?
MY ONLY THOUGHT WAS THAT I MUST HELP HIM THE BEST I CAN
EVEN THE OWNER WHO PASSED AWAY LAST YEAR WAS MY KOUHAI WHEN HE MARRIED THE SUCCESSOR,

17 GENERATIONS AND 450 YEARS OF HISTORY TO HAVE MADE IT THIS FAR, THEY MUST HAVE OVERCOME NUMEROUS OBSTACLES IN KYOTO'S CHAOTIC PAST. THE GREAT FAMINE, THE WARS
AFTER EACH WAR, A NEW ERA IS BORN
THE CAPITAL WAS MOVED TO TOKYO DURING MEIJI ERA CEREMONY WAGASHI BEGAN TO LOSE ITS POPULARITY
BUT IN EACH TERRIBLE SITUATION, EACH SUCCESSOR HAS MANAGED TO SAVE THE SHOP AND KEEP IT MOVING FORWARD
WHATEVER SON-IN-LAW MARRIES INTO THE FAMILY WILL INHERIT THE SHOP. AT THE BEGINNING THINGS ARE GOING TO BE ROUGH TOO
I MIGHT END UP WORKING HERE FOR THREE GENERATIONS.
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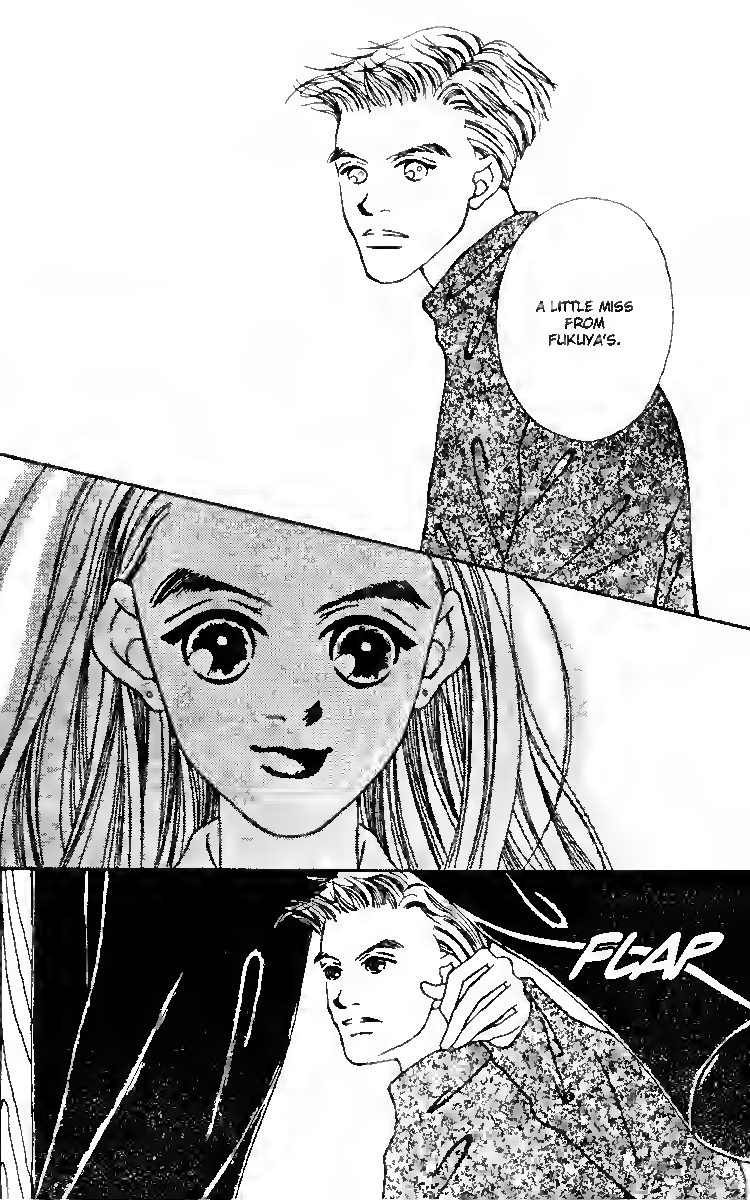
SO IT WAS A LITTLE GIRL WHO OPENED MY EYES
CLICK!
.....
BUT NOW MADAM IS SO GOOD AT RUNNING THE BUSINESS
AND THERE ARE A LOT OF WORKERS IN THE SHOP.
GEEZ, BRO! YOU KNOW I'M BACK AND PLAYING TRU-ANT, RIGHT?
KEN-CHAN
YES
SOMEONE IS HERE TO SEE YOU.


A LITTLE MISS FROM FUKUYA'S.
FEAR

KENJI-SAN!
.....
HANA-CHAN...
LUCKY! WE FOUND YOU.
I DON'T KNOW THE WAY AROUND OSAKA. IORI-KUN TOOK ME HERE.
RIGHT?
RIGHT?
YEAH

AH, YOU'RE RIGHT
THERE'RE ONLY TEMPLES AROUND HERE.
IT LOOKS A LOT LIKE KYOTO.
HA HA HA, THAT'S BECAUSE WHERE THERE ARE TEMPLES THERE ARE WAGASHI SHOPS
I HEARD KENJI-SAN'S BROTHER HAS RECOVERED.
THAT'S GREAT. SO KENJI-SAN WILL BE BACK SOON.
YEAH, ALMOST AS GOOD AS NEW.
IT ACTUALLY WASN'T ANYTHING SERIOUS.

KENJI-SAN....?
.....
ARARE-CHAN IS VERY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

MOM, ONEE-CHAN, SEI-OJISAN, AND EVERYONE ELSE ARE ALL WORRIED ABOUT YOU, TOO
SHE LOOKS ALL LIFELESS SINCE YOU LEFT.
SHE FEARS THAT YOU'LL LEAVE FUKUYA'S AND NEVER COME BACK, BUT SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO CALL YOU.

KENJI-SAN, I HAVE A REQUEST.
IF YOU'VE DECIDED TO TAKE AN IMPORTANT STEP,
WOULD YOU TELL ARARE-CHAN, TOO, PLEASE?
SO YOU CAME TO OSAKA JUST TO SAY THIS?
N... NO! I JUST DROPPED BY. ACTUALLY, I'M ON MY WAY TO AN AMUSE-MENT PARK WITH YORI
AMUSEMENT PARK? WHICH ONE?
Which one?
ERM...
She can't remember the name? So she never intended to go there for a date with me from the start.
EXPO-WORLD.

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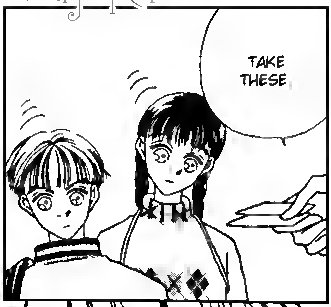
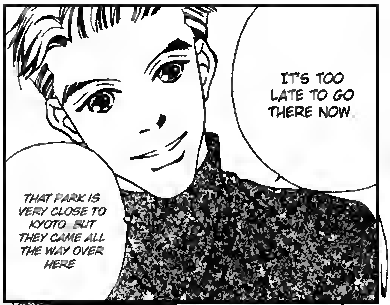
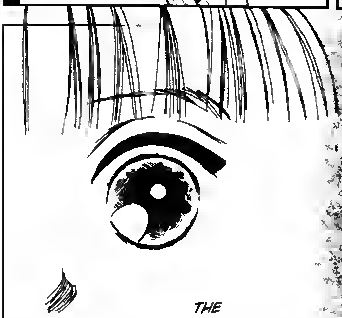
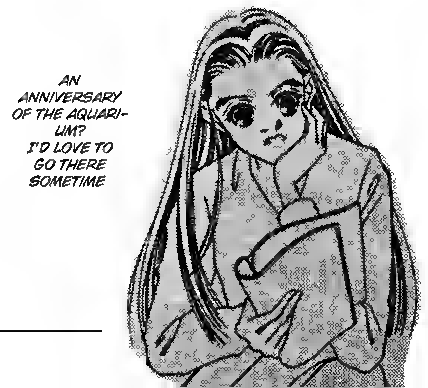








KENJI-SAN CAME TO WORK FOR US WHEN I WAS FIVE

WHOA HANA-CHAN'S HOUSE MUST EMPLOY A LOT OF PEOPLE

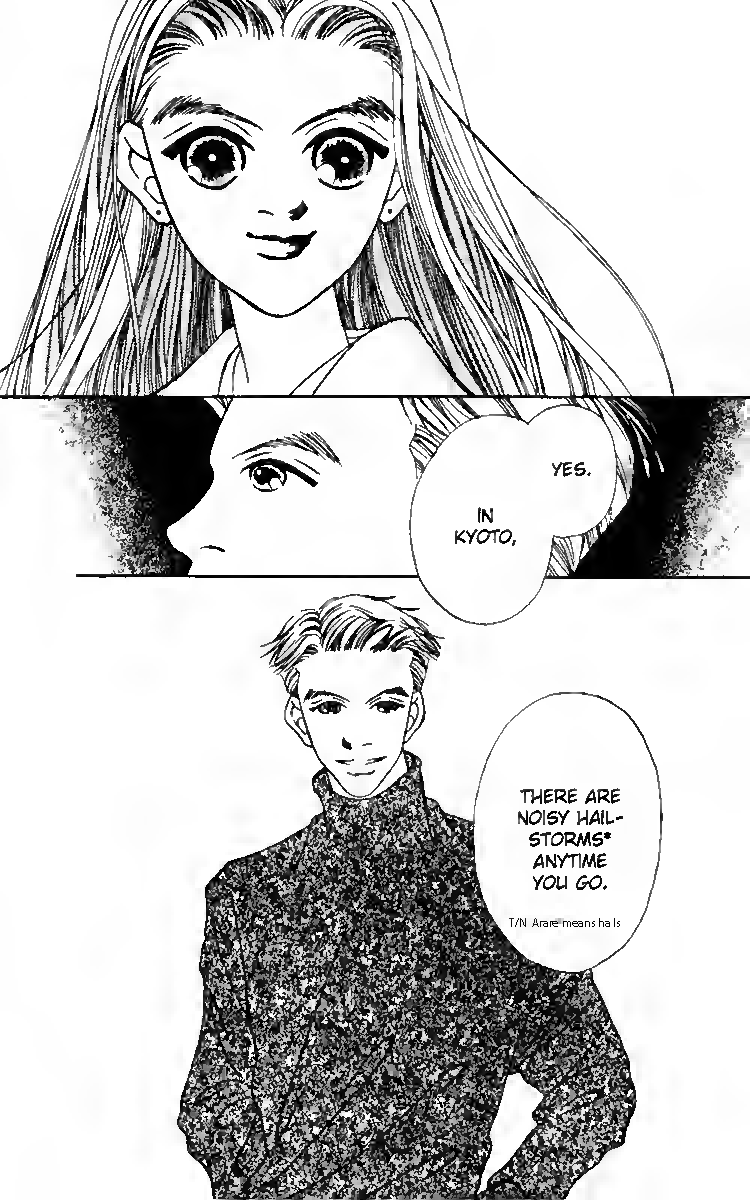
YEAH... BUT KENJI-SAN IS SPECIAL

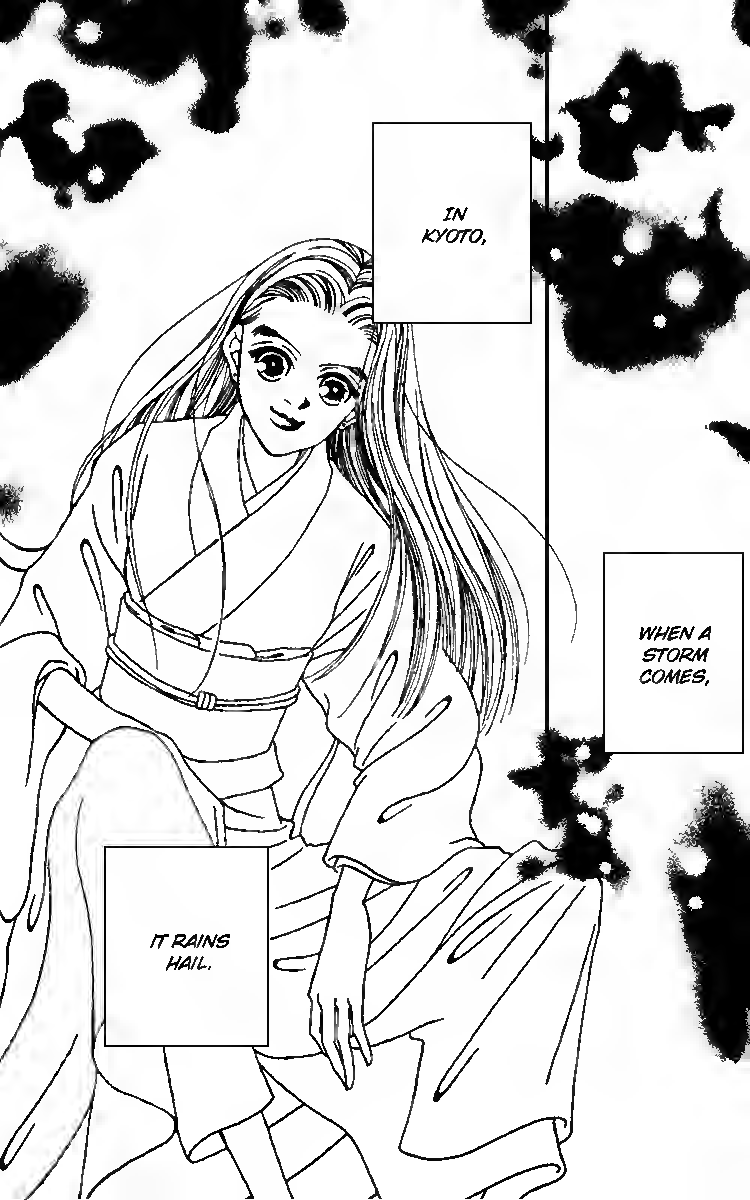
HE'S LIKE MY REAL OLDER BROTHER.
THEY WENT BACK ALREADY..?

YES
SHE'S SO CUTE. ARE THE OTHER DAUGHTERS THE SAME?
NO, BUT THEY'RE ALL UNIQUE IN THEIR OWN WAY.
KEN-CHAN,
WHY DON'T YOU BE CLEAR WITH THEM ABOUT YOUR RESIGNATION?
TAKING A LONG BREAK LIKE THIS ISN'T GOOD FOR THEM, YOU KNOW.
PLONK
YES, I'LL DO THAT.
PLONK
PLONK

ZAAA
!
PLONK
PLONK
HAIL...
?
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
I

A HAILSTORM THE SKY WAS SO CLEAR THE MINUTE
IT'S A SUDDEN DOWNPOUR. SO STRANGE
BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT IS HERE.
SNOW ISN'T SO BAD, BUT HAIL IS PRETTY NOISY
DOES IT HAIL IN KYOTO, TOO?
ZAAA


YES.
IN KYOTO,
THERE ARE NOISY HAIL-STORMS* ANYTIME YOU GO.
T/N Arare means hails


IN KYOTO,
WHEN A STORM COMES,
IT RAINS HAIL.

Kinton Wagashi
Kinton is a type of wagashi that are made by coating a ball of an (sweet bean paste) with colorful flakes also made with an. The flakes of an are called sohoro and they are made by passing kohkan (steamed sweet bean paste) through a coarse sieve.
(Source: kotonuyyeyunyuin.blogspot.com)

Translator: Honpo
Editor: Yayomi

Scanned & Translated by : Chihaya
Cleaned & Edited by : goldhair
Proofread by : Maverick
Quality checked by : zoo